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Rail and road commuters facing no fun but Games travel chaos

By Marijke Cox
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KENT'S commuting workforce is being warned to prepare for travel hell during the Olympics with more than a quarter of a million extra people expected to use the county's rail and road networks every day.

While excitement builds around the upcoming London Games, transport authorities are urging people using Southeastern trains to plan well ahead, with 110,000 extra passengers expected each day over the Olympic period.

And workers travelling to and from the city by road are being told categorically by Transport for London to avoid the Olympic Road Network (ORN), which includes the approach to the Blackwall Tunnel, one of the main routes into London from Kent.

Huge pressure on roads in and out of London is expected to force motorists to use the notorious Dartford Crossing, with fears it could become a gridlock nightmare, handling as many as 300,000 vehicles a day during the Games – double the usual amount.

And problems will continue during the Paralympics, with the closure of main roads by Brands Hatch race circuit near Swanley – including the A20 into London – where road cycling races and trials are taking place from September 5-8. The roads will be closed for six days from September 3.

Traders in West Kingsdown, an area expected to be most badly affected, said it will cause a huge loss in business, and residents have voiced fears over potential increased travel times, where a normal three-mile journey from the village to nearby Farningham, for example, will be a 31-mile trek due to

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FARM IS TOP SEED FOR WIMBLEDON CROWDS

BERRY NICE: Marion Regan's farm provides all the strawberries for SW19 – **SEE INSIDE**

ART

Giant white horse in stalls

MULTI-MILLION pound plans to build a giant white horse in Ebbsfleet – expected to be the most significant public art piece since Angel of the North – have been stalled by the economic downturn. There has been a lack of sponsors to help pay for the building of the 50-metre sculpture. **PAGE 3**

CAMPAIGN

It's too late for a hub airport

THE case against a Thames Estuary airport is growing as fresh calls are made to abandon the controversial proposals and focus on existing runway capacity. An independent report found a hub airport was unlikely to solve the South East's aviation problems in the foreseeable future. **PAGE 9**

SPORT

No penalty for derby fiasco

ESSEX will escape Scott free after a fiasco cost Kent in their Twenty20 clash at Chelmsford. The derby was poised for a thrilling end, but confusion meant when Mark Davies faced the final ball the scoreboard said Kent needed four runs to win – when two would have been enough. **PAGE 71**

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Neil Buchanan and his dislike of the 'poncy art world'

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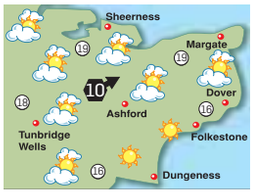

TODAY: Sunny spells and a few sharp showers. Light winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with lengthy clear spells. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.20	6.1	21.47	6.3
Margate	10.15	4.3	22.49	4.5
St Mary's	02.49	5.0	15.23	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 19C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 20C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 20C	Min 13C
Friday	Max 20C	Min 12C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 12C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Government stresses need to prioritise Games spectators

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diversions onto the M20.

Transport chiefs said they were doing all they could to avoid disruption, but that congestion was inevitable.

A Highways Agency spokesman said all planned road works had been suspended, including on all those routes expected to be used as an alternative to the ORN. He said resources would also be stationed near key points should any incidents occur.

"As a key delivery partner for the Games, the Highways Agency has been working with Transport for London, the Olympic Delivery Authority and partners for some time to help ensure the roads we manage serve both the Games family and non-Games traffic," he said.

Traffic plans show that an approach lane both north-bound and southbound to the Blackwall Tunnel, called 'Games lanes', will be reserved for VIPs, athletes and media representatives.

At the final approach to the tunnel, both north and south, the Games lane traffic will have to merge in with public motorists, a system expected to create a bottleneck. For people wanting to turn onto the A13, drivers will have to merge with Games traffic.

Motorists are expected to avoid the Blackwall Tunnel and instead use the Dartford Crossing during the Olympics, which run from July 27 to August 12.

But the Government has so far refused to agree to open the toll booths to allow free-flowing traffic, despite calls from council chiefs in Dartford and Thurrock, in Essex.

Road minister Mike Penning said the Government was not expecting significant increases in traffic volumes at the crossing.

"We are carefully considering how Dartford Crossing will operate," he said. "We have carried out detailed planning work with our delivery partners to ensure the road network is ready, and will continue to consider measures to help keep traffic moving at the crossing."

A Department for Transport spokeswoman told KoS there would be an announcement made next week with regards to the situation at Dartford.

For commuters using Southeastern's rail service, the situation is expected to be no better. The Government has stressed the need to prioritise spectators and people going to the Games.

Queueing systems will be put in place at key stations, including Ashford, Sevenoaks and London terminals, to limit the number of people on platforms.

The high-speed service will become a Javelin shuttle service and will operate between St Pancras, Stratford and Ebbsfleet, with the occasional train to Faversham.

There will be a minimal high-speed service to Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Canterbury West, Margate, Minster and Sturry between July 27 and August 12, and no service at all to Folkestone stations, Dover, Deal or Sandwich.

Southeastern spokeswoman Sarah Boundy said: "We're expecting 25 per cent more people on our trains each day – more at weekends when there are free events in London.

"We carry around 450,000 people every weekday now, during the Olympics we expect another 110,000 each day. People must allow extra time for their journey."

■ **See the Olympic train timetable at www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/olympics and for road information see www.getaheadofthegames.com.**

EDUCATION

KCC education service wins schools' support to beat 'tipping point'

By Marijke Cox
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SCHOOLS given freedom over where they buy education services are snubbing independent providers in favour of council support.

A massive 95 per cent of maintained schools which have so far chosen not to convert to academies are sticking with what they know and have bought contracts with EduKent, a new Kent County Council education package.

Last year the authority agreed to hand over £8 million of central Government funds directly to maintained schools so they could have the same control as academies over support services.

Traditionally, a portion of this dedicated schools grant was retained by KCC to carry out a number of functions on behalf of schools.

Academies, however, have always been given state funding directly which they use to buy services, such as support for special education needs, teacher recruitment and catering, from service providers, including KCC.

Fears were raised last year that the high number of academies emerging could push KCC to "tipping point" – when it is uneconomic for the council to provide services automatically to maintained schools – prompting the council to agree to hand over funds directly to those schools.

Education chiefs at County Hall said this would create a level playing field and reduce the gap in funding between academies and their council-managed counterparts.

However, it would mean KCC acting as a service provider, competing with other businesses.

But since the radical change came in three months ago, the majority of schools have stuck by KCC. Its new EduKent package, specially created in response to the shake-up, offers more than 40 education support services all from one source – a sort of one-stop shop.

Cabinet member for education, learning and skills at KCC, Cllr Mike Whiting, said schools' decision to use the package was a vote of confidence.

"I am always proud of how forward thinking we are in Kent and the decision to devolve £8m of the dedicated schools grant is a prime example of this," he said.

"All schools in Kent, maintained and academies, deserve the same level of freedoms in deciding how they spend their money and the devolved budget allows them to do this."

"Schools know their pupils and their specific needs best and they can now cater for them much more effectively. EduKent provides quality educational support services and it seems that schools are in complete agreement."

KCC said additional funding from the Government's pupil premium scheme, which looks to support disadvantaged children, is helping children and young people from low income families.

LEARNING CENTRE: Ninety-five per cent of the county's maintained schools have continued to get their services from KCC, despite the option to buy elsewhere

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ART

Cash woes leave Ebbsfleet 'white horse' statue at the starting gate

Exclusive by Marijke Cox
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MULTI-million pound plans to build a giant white horse in Ebbsfleet – expected to be the most significant public art piece since Angel of the North – have been stalled by the economic downturn.

Despite a fundraising campaign looking for parties to invest in the project, efforts have proved fruitless with a lack of sponsors coming forward to help pay for the building of the 50-metre sculpture.

The horse, designed by Turner-prize winner Mark Wallinger, is expected to cost several million pounds according to those behind the project, although speculation surrounding the final price suggests a figure closer to £12 million.

Wallinger fought off stiff competition from other internationally-acclaimed artists to win the high-profile Ebbsfleet Landmark Project (ELP) in 2009 with his ambitious design.

His horse will be 33 times larger than the Riviera Red racehorse on which he based the sculpture, and will look out over the new Ebbsfleet Valley development at Springhead.

It has been dubbed the Angel of the South and is likely to be the biggest and most significant public work of art since the development of Antony Gormley's Angel of the North in Gateshead.

Part-funded by Eurostar, Land Securities, and London and Continental Railways, Mr Wallinger's sculpture design was originally due to be completed in time for the London Olympics.

Planning permission was obtained in April, 2010, from Gravesham Borough Council, but this is likely to have to be renewed next year.

A spokesman for Land Securities said a committee of interested parties was still trying to secure funding for the project.

FIELD OF DREAMS: Artist Mark Wallinger's white horse design was chosen in January, 2009, ahead of four other entries to be the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project

"We're hoping things will pick up," he said. "The planning permission runs out next year, but we don't envisage any problems getting that renewed. We funded the design, but we now have to find parties to fund the build. The economic downturn has stalled it."

He admitted the sculpture would be more expensive than initially thought.

"We have never disclosed exactly how much it will be, but it will be several million," he said.

He was unable to give a time as to when the sculpture might be built, but said it would still go ahead.

Few other details have been released about the project in stark contrast to the global wave of publicity that followed the unveiling of the horse as the winner of the ELP in January, 2009.

The commission was announced in 2007, aimed at attracting internationally-acclaimed artists.

Five designs were commissioned, but Mr Wallinger came through victorious with his ambitious horse design.

The aim of the project is to provide a high-profile symbol for Ebbsfleet Valley, the Gravesham and Dartford communities and the north Kent region to help identify Ebbsfleet Valley and Ebbsfleet International station.

At 40-50m high, the landmark will be one of the biggest artworks in the UK, comparable in scale to the Statue of Liberty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arson and blackmail

ARSONIST Leroy Brown, 34, of Uxbridge Road, west London, who blackmailed a London property developer and started fires to target his victim's business and family has been jailed for an indeterminate sentence, and will serve a minimum of eight-and-a-half years. In May, 2011, Brown started a fire at what he mistakenyl thought was the victim's parents home in Rainham. Ten days later, the victim's sister's house, also in Rainham, was targeted by Brown.

TV chef brews a pint

RENOWNED celebrity chef Angela Hartnett has visited Shepherd Neame's Faversham brewery to find out about women's role in brewing for the BBC Two show The Great British Food Revival. The show see chefs on a quest across the UK to investigateforgotten food traditions. Canterbury-born Hartnett was hosted by head brewer Richard Frost, who coached her through a brew of Spitfire Premium Kentish Ale. The show will be broadcast in the autumn.

Ride fall girl 'improving'

A four-year-old girl who suffered critical injuries falling from a ride at Chessington World of Adventures is making "small improvements". Jessica Blake, from Sheerness, suffered a fractured skull, a bleed on the brain and broken ribs after falling 14ft from queue for the Tomb Blaster ride on June 7. She is being treated at St George's Hospital in south London. Officials from the Health and Safety Executive are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The ride has been closed since the accident.

BUSINESS

Strawberry fields forever as farm continues Wimbledon love affair

IF you are lucky enough to have tickets to watch Great Britain's big hope Andy Murray play at Wimbledon this weekend, you'll be able to enjoy the actionwhile tucking into some of the 30 tonnes of Kentish strawberries on sale.

Over Wimbledon fortnight more than two million of the berries will available with a dollop of cream, just 24 hours after being picked at Hugh Lowe Farms in Mereworth.

The farm near Maidstone has netted the position of chosen provider to the world-famous championships for the past two decades without a break, which really does give a new meaning to strawberry fields forever.

The farm is run by Marion Regan, 51, with husband Jon, 53, and its south-facing slopes means it is ideal for catching just the right amount of sun for the Elsanta variety.

The teams of 35 pickers are told to only select the very best for Wimbledon – and it's done at the very last minute so they are as fresh as possible. They have to be a good shade of scarlet over the entire surface before they can be served up to tennis fans.

Mrs Regan said: "We use a five-hectare section of the farm just for the Wimbledon strawberries. We also supply raspberries which go in the puddings in the corporate boxes. In all we have about 130 hectares of strawberries.

"Our strawberries are among the best in Britain – they are sweet, juicy and fresh and we ensure they go straight in to their own punnets, which cuts down dramatically on human handling.

TASTY: Marion with punnets set for Wimbledon

"A medium-sized strawberry is what we are looking for, and they have to be soft enough to cut in half with a teaspoon, while balancing them on your knee."

The lorries head for the tennis courts on a daily basis and Mrs Regan said they haven't had any problems making the deliveries.

She said: "The weather this year has been extremely kind to us – our strawberries have peaked just as the right time for the Wimbledon fortnight. That means we have also had a good year for flavour and size. It could not be better, we are delighted."

■ More news and sport headlines available online at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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POLITICS

Handshake heralded as 'wonderful' moment by Mountbatten's daughter

By Nick Ames
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EARL Mountbatten's daughter has heralded the historic meeting of the Queen with Martin McGuinness as a "wonderful" moment.

Patricia Knatchbull, 2nd Countess Mountbatten, of New House, Mersham, lost her 14-year-old son Nicholas Knatchbull along with her father and mother-in-law in the IRA bomb which claimed four lives on August 27, 1979.

But she told the Daily Telegraph the meeting of the Queen with Mr McGuinness, a former IRA commander, had her support.

"I think it's wonderful," she said. "I'm hugely grateful we have come to a point where we can behave responsibly and positively."

The countess, 88, was badly injured by the bomb which blew up a fishing boat on which her family were enjoying a day out off the coast of County Sligo, Ireland.

Along with Nicholas, those who died in the attack were Lord Mountbatten, 79, and Paul Maxwell, 15, a local boat boy. Another passenger, the Dowager Lady Doreen Brabourne, 83, died the day after the attack of her injuries.

Countess Mountbatten's husband, John Knatchbull 7th Baron Brabourne, and her other twin son, Timothy, also received terrible injuries in the attack

Thomas McMahon, 63, was given four life sentences for placing a bomb on board the Shadow V, but was released from prison in 1998, under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

But the person who detonated the remote controlled device has never been bought to justice.

An IRA statement released at the time said: "The IRA claim responsibility for the execution of Lord Louis Mountbatten. This operation is one of the discriminate ways we can bring to the attention of the English people the continuing occupation of our country."

GRABBING HISTORY: The Queen met Martin McGuinness, a former commander of the IRA, during her Northern Ireland visit this week

Thirty years after the murders Timothy Knatchbull, who suffered shrapnel wounds and damage to his eye, admitted the death of his twin Nicholas has haunted him throughout his life.

He wrote a book – From A Clear Blue Sky – which reflects on his loss. He describes the book as "saying goodbye to Nick".

In it he states: "We were all so completely crushed by the bomb, we needed not just to survive, but to signal to others that we were surviving.

"And when we were all so devastated it was hard to say, 'I'm hurting, I need more time, more energy, more support, more listening'.

"The one thing I wanted most was to give support and strength to my beloved family at the worst time in our lives – and the first way I felt I could do that was to show that I was all right, I was coping, not to worry about me.

"I knew they were very worried I might not be able to carry on as a lone twin, so I automatically felt I should give them the all-clear signal as soon as I was out of hospital.

"I fooled them but, worse, I fooled myself. My emotional and mental scars were terrible and took years to come out because I clamped down on them and kept them from view."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burglars steal medals

MEDALS and memorabilia have been swiped from a home in Aylesford. Police are appealling for help in tracking down the distinctive items stolen during a burglary in Eccles. The crime happened on June 12 in Mackenders Lane. Property including military medals, a pocket watch and two chiming clocks were reported to have been stolen, as was a medal the victim was awarded for service in the fire brigade, and a pocket watch in recognition of his service.

Kids back cigarette ban

A GROUP of Kent youngsters have backed calls for the introduction of plain tobacco packaging in a bid to cut the number of under 18s starting smoking. The group, called REframe, met to have their say in response to a government consultation. Every year, 340,000 children in England try smoking for the first time – and 200,000 under-16s become regular smokers. REframe is supported by Kent Youth County Council and Mid Kent College Students' Union.

Police chief short reign

ANN Barnes has been re-elected for the seventh consecutive year as chair of the soon-to-be-defunct Kent Police Authority. Her election follows the annual meeting of the authority – which holds the local police force to account.

Her final year will be relatively short-lived however. In November it will be disbanded and replaced by the Police and Crime Commissioner, who will be elected by the public.

HEALTH

PFI hospital trust admits to 'difficult' future but plans merger of services

A HOSPITAL trust has denied it is spiralling into financial crisis because of its Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, which runs Darent Valley Hospital, admitted the future "looked difficult", but said it was not in the same position as South London Healthcare, which faces insolvency due its crippling "NHS mortgage".

Under PFI, private firms pay to build hospitals, with the NHS left to pay a mortgage-like fee over 30 years.

A Dartford and Gravesham NHS spokesman said in recent years the trust had balanced its books and ended last year with a £393,000 surplus.

He stated that while things were difficult financially, moves to merge with Medway NHS Foundation Trust would ensure the future of services.

"We have balanced the books for the last few years and ended last year with a small surplus of £393,000," he said.

"However, the upcoming financial position for the NHS means the future looks more difficult, and to maintain services going forward we think an integration with another trust is the best way of protecting existing services, and indeed building on others.

"The staff at Darent Valley are innovative, flexible and totally committed to high-quality patient care.

"Although the economic landscape is challenging, the organisation has clear financial plans to create efficiencies, maintain its income and keep tight control of its costs. This means the trust can continue to serve the community and invest in new patient services."

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which runs the brand new £228 million Pembury Hospital, is also tied up in a PFI, with repayments of £1.7m month from a monthly income of £30m – with the repayments continuing for 30 years.

South London Healthcare formed in 2009, when Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust and Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust merged to create a single hospital on several sites.

These include Princess Royal University in Bromley and Queen Mary's in Sidcup.

South London Healthcare is spending 14 per cent of its income on repayments to a PFI, and it is now insolvent.

The Government could appoint an administrator to take over the running of the hospital.

CRIME

Fine for train near miss

A 36-year-old woman has been found guilty of careless driving after she ignored a red light at a level crossing seconds before a train passed. The woman, from Hawkinge, was summonsed to court following the near-miss on August Bank holiday last year on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. She had driven over the crossing at Hull Road, Greatstone, seconds before a train heading to Dungeness had passed. The woman pleaded not guilty but was found guilty of careless driving and failing to comply with a traffic sign. She was given nine penalty points, fined £165, and ordered to pay £350 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hop Farm hope for sun

THOUSANDS of music fans will descend on Paddock Wood this weekend for the Hop Farm Festival – with organisers keeping their fingers crossed the dry weather holds.

Up to 50,000 fans are expected to head to the site of the Hop Farm tourist park for the star-studded three-day extravaganza.

With dry weather most of this week, the forecast is for the occasional light shower in the early hours of Saturday morning, but for the rest of the weekend to be dry and mild.

Headlining the Friday night is Peter Gabriel, Bob Dylan stars on Saturday and Suede bring the event to an end on Sunday.

TRAVEL

Town hall chief vows to push on with unpopular road closure trial run

By Chrissie Daniels
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THE leader of Canterbury City Council has vowed the trial road closure at Westgate Towers will remain in place, despite transport chiefs voting for the landmark to reopen.

The scheme was put in place on March 27 to stop lorries and buses damaging the historic archway and to improve air quality in the area.

But the council has received hundreds of complaints from angry residents complaining of long travel delays during peak times.

At a meeting of the town hall's joint transportation board last week, members voted in favour of taking the issue to the executive on July 21 – where councillors will make the decision on whether to abandon the trial.

But Canterbury City Council leader Cllr John Gilbey, said he will be voting for the closure to remain in place.

He said: "If I had to vote now that's what I would do. It was deliberately designed to be a year trial and that's what it will be.

"Why would we stop it now? I can see no reason to stop it."

Cllr Gilbey said the council will address the issues and the public consultation, due to run from July until September, will provide more information.

He added the council has already responded to fears over pedestrian safety by giving the go-ahead to two zebra crossings, one at Station Road West and one at North Lane. They plan to have them installed within the next 12 weeks.

The Canterbury area member panel has already made the recommendation the controversial trial should stop.

At last week's transport meeting, Conservative councillor Graham Gibbens put forward the motion to let the executive decide the trial's fate – to which a majority of six councillors, from all parties, agreed.

Cllr Gibbens said: "I think it [the scheme] needed a lot more planning in advance to make it work, and that did not happen.

"The congestion in the area is unacceptable now for local residents. It has caused a lot of inconvenience."

Steve Coombs commented on the Facebook group, 'No to the closure of the Westgate Towers', and said that nobody in favour of the trial received a round of applause at the meeting.

He said: "It is perhaps this that should act as a clear message to those charged with making the ultimate decision in respect of this scheme, and that given they are in place to serve the best interests of those whom they represent and work for, the only right response now should be to abandon this trial without further delay."

CONTROVERSY: Canterbury's historic Westgate Towers have been closed to traffic during trial

■ **Read all the very latest news and sport headlines at www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

HERITAGE

Pictures: ENGLISH HERITAGE

BIRD'S EYE VIEW: (l-r) Style and Winch Ltd at the Medway Brewery, Maidstone, 1921; Lydd Camp, Lydd 1920; Foord Almshouses. Borstal, 1927; (bottom) a mystery shot on the website

How the years fly by: never-before-seen aerial photos reveal a century of change around Kent

By Chris Britcher
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MORE than 15,000 aerial photographs from across the UK, taken nearly 100 years ago, are to go online for the first time.

And as the images on this page show, the photos provide a fascinating snapshot of our county.

Among the areas captured are Chatham, Folkestone, Dover, Maidstone, Lydd and St Margaret's Bay.

Britain from Above is a the new website – www.britainfromabove.org.uk – which is run by English Heritage and the Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Wales.

It features some of the oldest and most valuable images of the Aerofilms Collection, a unique and important archive of more than one million aerial photographs taken between 1919-2006.

The photographs featuring on the website date from 1919-53, and have gone through a painstaking process of conservation and cataloguing. Due to their age and fragility, many of the earliest plate glass negatives were close to being lost forever.

The Aerofilms Collection was acquired for the nation in 2007, when the company was facing financial difficulties.

Anna Eavis, head of archive at English Heritage, said: "The Aerofilms Collection embodies all that is exciting about aerial photography. We are pleased the items have been given safe, long-term homes, and that each of the organisations involved has been enriched by their addition."

By the end of the project in 2014, 95,000 images taken between 1919-53 will be available online, showing the changing face of modern Britain.

Advertiser's Announcement

Chelsea Flower Show may be fading from your memory, but Jacksons Show Gardens are still here to inspire you…

Now in to the third year the Show Gardens have proved to be an attraction for visitors to the Kent Fencing company's display area, as news has got around about these inspirational displays. In the first year the project was hailed as a "mini Chelsea Flower Show" as people in the Kent area were treated to visions of loveliness more associated with the big RHS flower shows, rather than something you would expect to see in a local fencing centre.

Two of the seven existing gardens on show at Stowting have been replaced with brand new designs; these are this year's winners of the national garden design competition run by Jacksons. Entrants come from all over the country and even the continent.

The idea was thought up by Jacksons' marketing manager, Louise Tomlin: "We wanted to create more than just a fencing display. By running the national competition for garden designers to create show gardens that use Jacksons and other high quality suppliers' products, we have provided something for people to visit to get inspiration for their own garden projects. What's more, the gardens are available for people to visit all year round, rather than the few days that show gardens can be seen at the large flower shows. I am really excited about the two new gardens this year, as in the previous years the quality of the entries we had, made it very difficult to choose the winners, but we got there and now they are open and ready for visitors."

The winners are: Natural Reflections by Alison Coxhead and Within the Weave by Kari Beardsell.

Alison, a local Kent designer revealed that she did not need any encouragement to include Jacksons' products within her design. "I use them all the time and even have them in my own garden," she explained. "I try to persuade my customers to include Jacksons' fencing, gates and other garden products because using cheaper, inferior products is a mistake in the long run.

"It's important to me that the gardens I have designed stay looking good, which means my clients will enjoy them for years to come. By specifying quality products I know that they will still be looking good 25 years plus later - and that means my work is still going to be looking good, too."

Featuring in the new gardens will be the amazing new Woven panel by Jacksons, there is a clue in the name of Kari Beardsell's 'Within the Weave'. The Woven panels are catching on fast and have been an instant success with almost everyone who has seen them.

The five other gardens: The Fragrant Front Garden by Justine Jobson, The Chill Out Garden by Helen Elks-Smith, The Paradise Garden by Mary Ann Le May, Jacksons goes to the Seaside by Philippa O'Brien and The Float Garden by Silver and Gold RHS medal winning Heather Appleton have been refurbished to give them a new look, and if the last two years are anything to go by, this means there will be a stunning selection of show gardens to view from May 2012, onwards.

The gardens are open to visitors at Jacksons HQ in Stowting during the company's usual opening hours. To find out more about Jacksons Products and visiting the gardens log on to **jacksons-fencing.co.uk** or call **01233 750393.**

Alison Coxhead in her Natural Reflections Garden

Within the Weave Garden by Kari Beardsell

The Float Garden 2012 by Heather Appleton

Fragrant Front Garden 2012 by Justine Jobson

CAMPAIGN

Independent review says a hub airport would be too late to make a difference

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE case against a Thames Estuary airport is growing as fresh calls are made to abandon the controversial proposals and focus on existing runway capacity.

An independent report commissioned by council and business leaders found the proposed hub airport was unlikely to solve the South East's aviation problems in the foreseeable future.

Instead, it found that expanding other airports such as Stansted, Southend, and Manston in Thanet, could address short-term business needs, while an increase of flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports could create "significant potential".

'Mixed-mode' flying, where runways are used for take-offs and landings at the same time, would create an additional 20 million passengers a year at Heathrow, said the report.

Authors Parsons Brinckhoff, a global consulting firm, said: "Due to a wide range of issues including cost, air space management, the time it would take to build, and the impact it would have on the current Heathrow site, a new hub airport in the Thames Estuary is not a feasible solution."

Kent's leaders have always argued that existing capacity should be utilised and this latest report, which was presented to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, will come as a welcome addition to the campaign.

The report also controversially suggested additional runways should be built at existing sites, despite mass opposition to a third runway at Heathrow – something the Government recently hinted at re-examining.

"If we were designing an airport system from scratch, or had the planning freedoms or financial capabilities of some emerging economies then it would be easy to say that, yes, a new hub airport away from major conurbations with plenty of available capacity would be the right decision for the South East and the UK as a whole," the report stated.

"We are not, however, starting from scratch. We have invested heavily in the sites at Heathrow and Gatwick and need to ensure the operators at both airports are able to respond to the demand being generated by their customers, the airlines.

"Parsons Brinckerhoff strongly recommends that capacity issues need to be addressed in the next five years as waiting 12 to 15 years (best case) for a new hub airport will be too late. By that stage the UK will have lost too much ground to European competitors to justify the huge investment."

The airport plans include the construction of an international transport hub on Grain by Lord Foster or on reclaimed land in the estuary by Boris Johnson, dubbed Boris Island. Both would cost £50bn-£70bn.

This report, which will be considered in the upcoming government review into aviation, came as the London Assembly, part of the Greater London Authority, called for the Mayor of London to abandon his plans.

Members called it a "simplistic and ill-conceived vanity project" and warned it would have a devastating effect on the west London economy, with up to 100,000 jobs at risk should Heathrow be forced to close to make way for a new estuary hub.

MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless joined campaigners last week to raise awareness of the fight.

"There is a large basket of options for greater runway capacity for the South East, all of which make more sense economically and environmentally than a 'pie in the sky' estuary airport," he said.

"When the government produces its paper we must use it to kill off any estuary airport option once and for all in favour of options which make economic and environmental sense."

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject. You can sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

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CRIME

Teen on rape charge

AN 18-year-old man from Rochester has been charged with raping a teenage girl at an Essex seaside resort. The girl was allegedly attacked behind the Adventure Island feature off Marine Parade, Southend, on April 8 last year. The teenager was charged with one count of rape and one of assault. He was released on bail to appear before Southend magistrates on July 9.

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HOME AND AWAY: Tales of wartime evacuations would be welcomed at the newly created website

HERITAGE

WWII survivors asked to share their memories of the 'total war' waged against Nazi Germany

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

KENT was one of the key home front battlegrounds of World War Two, and a new project aims to preserve memories from the people who lived through the conflict.

Thousands of troops left through Kent for fighting on the Continent – hoping to see the white cliffs when they returned safely home – and Dover was known as Hellfire Corner because of the heavy bombing inflicted on the town. And of course, the Battle of Britain was fought over the county.

Now a new website – www.memoriesofwar.org.uk – has been created to allow people who lived through the war to share their experiences with future generations.

The project, developed by Dr Jane Balshaw and Malin Laudin, has already gathered hundreds of memories from around the world, and the pair are hoping more will come forward.

Dr Balshaw said: "There will come a time when there are fewer and fewer people who lived through this, and it is important we retain these stories for future generations.

"No one story about being evacuated or one story about being in the Land Army is the same.

"World War Two was the first time Britain experienced total war and it is really important that we remember the past."

The website contains more than 180 contributions so far, which have been collated over the past two years with the help of students at the University of Greenwich, which has a campus at Medway Maritime.

The pair hope it will act as an educational resource for schoolchildren and bring historical events back to life for those that struggle to relate to events that took place two generations ago.

Dr Balshaw said: "I wanted to make sure all the people who had stories to tell had the chance to tell them. We have had people looking at it from across the whole world."

■ **Visit www.memoriesofwar.org.uk to read more stories and to submit your own World War Two memories.**

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TALES OF DEAD GERMAN AIRMEN WASHED UP ON THE SHORE, AND ONE SOLDIER'S LONG-DISTANCE ENGAGEMENT...

JOHN PLUMMER, who lives in Grove Park, London was evacuated to Folkestone in 1939, with his three sisters and brother, only to be separated into different families.

He wrote: "My early experience of a foster-parent was very unpleasant; she being both harsh and unkind. The Major's wife denied food for any alleged slightly misconduct. A strict disciplinarian no less.

"We stayed in Folkestone, about six months when the 'Big Berthas' from Calais opened up and shelled Dover and Folkestone.

"I can still recall dead German seamen being washed up on the beach wearing navy blue jumpers and hexagonal naval headdress."

DOREEN FOREMAN, (centre ballerina) from Margate, was evacuated to Rugeley in Staffordshire as a youngster.

Mrs Foreman spoke of her five years up north which led to her friends picking up an accent, and how her foster mother became a godparent to her daughter after she moved back home.

However, she added: "I remember coming out of Margate railway station, it was a lovely day. The sky – the sky here is so much higher than it is in Rugeley, it's always a low sky there and a bit grey.

"We did have nice days, but nothing like we've got here and the relief when I came out and saw the sea. I thought, 'Oh, home at last', it was lovely."

KENNETH TAYLOR, from Broadstairs was deployed on the Indian Ocean as a Royal Marine after being trained at the Chatham Royal Marine Barracks.

Mr Taylor, who had just left school, volunteered for the Royal Marines after helping out as a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service.

He said: "You volunteered and joined up and all you were looking forward to was to get it finished and get back home again.

"I wrote a letter to my mother and said would you take a ring and take it over to Vera (the girl I was courting) on Boxing Day and to get engaged – I hadn't even asked her! Mum took her ring over and that was it, so that was done from long distance."

KATHLEEN EAMES, (pictured with her family two Frenchmen and an Englishman injured at Dunkirk, from a nearby hospital) was 15 when war broke out. She lived in Farnborough.

She said: "One morning we (Kathleen and her sister) were walking down Dubbindon Lane because it was a very quiet little lane with no footpaths, just two or three gas lamps.

"It was just a quiet little country lane and we were walking down one morning and there were planes fighting overhead, and we had to suddenly dive in to a hedge because of the bullets – to me it was still all quite exciting.

"But then of course, I had no idea then that it was going to last six long years."

Kathleen later joined the Women's Royal Naval Service to avoid working in a factory after her sister suffered bad experiences at a machine works.

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DEVELOPMENT

‘London Eye sized’ wind turbines for village

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

PROPOSAL: After years fighting off various development proposals, the villagers of Sellindge are now up against turbines almost as tall as the London Eye

SIX wind turbines each the size of the London Eye are planned for a village set in the rolling Kent countryside.

Angry residents are determined to fight plans to build the turbines, after energy giant Ecotricity submitted an application to Shepway District Council to build six huge windmills at Harringe Brooks, near Sellindge.

But villagers fear the wind farm will lead to a drop in house prices, create noise, and ruin the views of the countryside.

This weekend is the council’s deadline for comments on the proposals, before town hall officials assess the application.

A council spokesman said on Wednesday that 143 representations had been received so far – 133 objections, one in support, and nine general comments.

Neighbours have set up an action group, Salvation, (Sellindge, Aldington, Lympne Villagers Against Turbines In Our Neighbourhood), which is operating as part of Sellindge Residents’ Association.

Tony Bosley from the group said: “We are reserving the right to provide evidence beyond June 30. Ecotricty had two years to provide information and we have only had five weeks.”

He said the turbines will be 900m from his home in Court-At-Street, but for some they will be just 500m from the end of their gardens.

Mr Bosley said: “We have moved here for the long term. We have no choice but to fight it.

“Why should we move? Our friends live here. We are backed against the wall and have nowhere to go.”

Each turbine would be 125 metres high, just 10m shorter than the London Eye.

The council’s website shows the objections to the plans.

Mr J Mann wrote: “I object to this application for monstrous wind turbines in a beautiful part of rural Kent. The effect on the local population will be profound.”

Mrs S Maybourne said: “It will ruin the village. So many of us will be able to see these things towering over us. We don’t want or need them. Keep them out at sea or give us solar panels.”

Ecotricty say the wind farm would generate enough green energy each year to power the equivalent of 11,800 homes.

Spokesman Nick Osbourne said: “It’s taken more than two years of detailed site assessments and environmental studies to get to this stage. The environmental benefits of the proposed wind park are significant, but the area will also receive substantial investment.

“If the plans were to be approved, Ecotricity would allocate a fund of £15,000 every year which local people can apply for, a total of £375,000 over the 25-year lifespan of the site.

“We have received comments of both support and objection from residents. There is often a fear of the unknown with any new development, and misinformation from certain groups can sometimes spread undue concern.

“There is no evidence, for instance, that the proximity of wind turbines has any impact on long-term house prices. As far as noise goes, we would encourage anyone to visit a turbine for themselves – people are often surprised by how quiet they are. However, if residents do still have questions, even at this stage, we urge them to get in touch with us directly.”

A council spokesman said it was too early to commit to a timescale for a decision on plans.

■ **More news at www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

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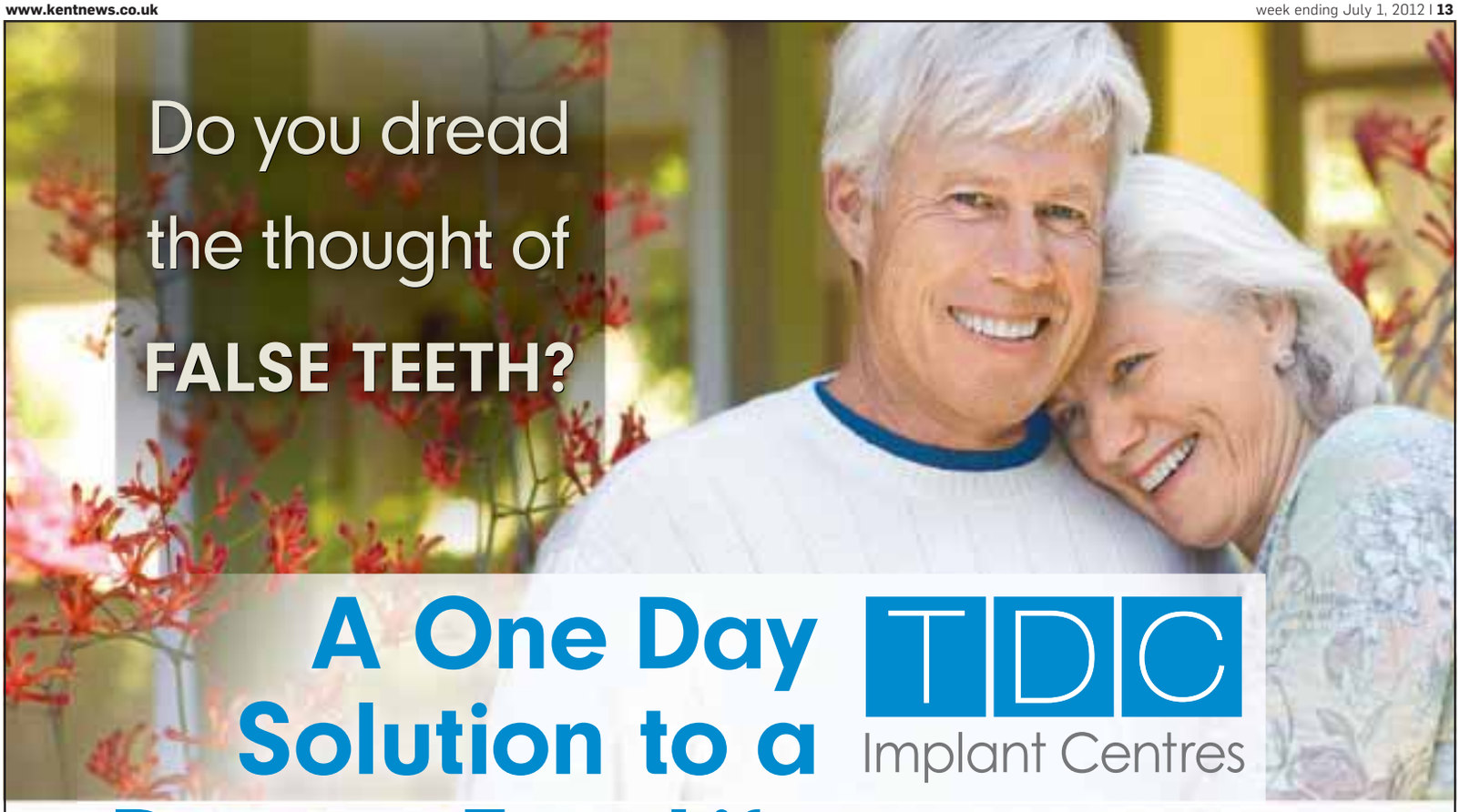

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ENVIRONMENT

Water company faces claims from seaside firms hit by sewage leaks

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

FOUR businesses in Thanet have made compensation claims to Southern Water after the sewage leaks that closed the isle's seas to swimmers last month.

The closures, which cost the local economy tens of thousands of pounds, hit up to 40 traders along the Thanet coast, and some are now seeking compensation because of the closures.

Joss Bay Surfing School boss Dave Melmoth said: "The closure will certainly have an effect this year – we have had a few school lessons cancelled as a result of the pollution.

"We haven't put an exact figure on it yet, but it definitely in the thousands of pounds. Because our business relies on us going into the sea, we were one of the worst hit."

Businesses on the Thanet coast were affected by nine days of sea closures after raw sewage was discharged into the water as the plant at Foreness Point failed to cope with heavy rain.

People were told not to go into the sea at any of Thanet's beaches, or cross the high-tide line on the sand.

A Southern Water spokesman said: "We have had four applications for compensation and are working with them on an individual basis. We continue to work closely with Thanet District Council and the Environment Agency to look at what happened with this incident and what can be done to make improvements for the future."

The water company has joined the Environment Agency in making a U-turn after they both initially turned down an invite to attend a public meeting to discuss the leaks.

Chairman of Thanet District Council's overview and scrutiny panel Cllr Ian Driver was furious when both bodies declined to attend the meeting scheduled for July 17 to discuss the events that led to the problem.

Environment and waterways manager for Kent and south London Alan Cansdale initially said: "I have had advice from our regional solicitor that, given we are undertaking a formal investigation, we should not take part in the meeting."

However, Cllr Driver has now received letters from both the Environment Agency and Southern Water outlining their intention to be represented at the summit.

Cllr Driver said: "I think a lot of local people will be coming along to listen to Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Thanet council about why, when and what will be done to get it right.

"People have a right to know what went wrong and what will be taken to stop this happening again.

"A lot of local people lost money and it was also major environmental disaster. We rely on our beaches for tourism, jobs and trade."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

WASHED UP: Sewage leak closed all of Thanet's beaches

RESCUE

Sheep saved from watery grave

EMERGENCY teams including the Animal Rescue Unit in Faversham were called out on Tuesday afternoon after three sheep fell into the River Beult.

Crews received the call for help at around 1.15pm after the three hapless animals fell into the chilly water near Chart Hill Road in Chart Sutton.

The expert animal rescue team swung into action and were able to save all three animals without any harm coming to the sheep.

The creatures were then safely reunited with their owner.

CRIME

Arcade raid in unpaid tax probe

HM Revenue and Customs officers have seized dozens of gaming machines from amusement arcades in Kent and Sussex on suspicion they are being operated illegally. Officers visted an arcade in Tunbridge Wells and five in Sussex last week, seizing 86 allegedly illegally operated machines containing almost £20,000 in cash. One man has been arrested on suspicion of gaming duty fraud. HM Revenue & Customs spokesman Bob Gaiger said: "We are investigating the non-payment of approximately £100,000."

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News

AGRICULTURE

Olives oil the way to making the most of climate change

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN advertising executive is hoping to launch Britain's best olive grove to create top quality extra virgin olive oil.

Neil Davy tests advertising branding for global companies, but said his weekend passion was olives.

So now he is planting 200 olive trees, believed to be among the first in the county, in the hope of creating a small company selling some of the best oil in the country.

The 41-year-old moved in to Huggit's Farm, Tenterden, six years ago with wife Louise, 41. They live there with daughters Kailash, six, and Teagan, two.

He said: "We want to exploit the climate change we are experiencing and realised Kent is the warmest and driest area in the country, so growing good quality olives is a possibility."

After a year-long trial using six olive cultivars, Mr Davy has almost finished planting some 200 trees of three varieties;

OLIVE FARMING: Neil Davy

Frantoio, believed to have originated in Tuscany and known for its hardiness and tolerance of cold temperatures; Leccino, which is similar to Frantoio in that it is fruity and peppery on the palate, but its flavour is lighter, more harmonious and subtle; and Maurino, hardy with a delicate, soft and balanced flavour, and an effective cross-pollinator of Leccino.

Mr Davy said: "The warmer weather and lack of fertile soil on the slopes of the five acre field will provide perfect conditions for growing olives."

If the planting experiment proves to be a success, the next stage is production.

He said: "You don't need to have factory-sized equipment. The production can be done in the space of a garage with machinery costing just a few thousand pounds.

"Our extra virgin olive oil will be more expensive than those in supermarkets, but it will be a much higher quality.

"It will be a bit like buying wine – you can spend a little for lower quality or a little more for much higher quality.

"Our area of Kent is one of the warmest and driest parts of Britain. When we combine that with the anticipated rise in temperatures from global warming, we think commercially grown olives might just have a fighting chance of success at Huggit's Farm."

He said the area is rich in agriculture; in addition to producing the famous salt marsh lamb and a wealth of arable crops, it is also home to some of Britain's most successful and well known vineyards.

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Seaside festival marks 30th year with world-class acts

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THIS weekend sees the return of the popular Deal Festival, a 10-day celebration of music, dance and theatre starring some of the world's finest performers.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the event which is spread across a number of different venues in the Dover district from June 29-July 8.

This year's line-up boasts the world premiere of composer Julian Philips' Battle, a dance and music battle between the Aurora Orchestra and French break-dancers at Dover town hall, as well as an open-air production of Shakespeare's As You Like It at The Salutation Gardens, Sandwich.

Harry Potter star Miriam Margolyes, who has a house in St Margaret's Bay, will perform her one-woman, Olivier Award-nominated production Dickens' Women – which is currently on its year-long worldwide tour – at St George's Church in Deal.

Other events include The Barber of Seville opera in the grounds of Northbourne Park School in Betteshanger; a set from three-time winners of the BBC folk awards LAU; and a performance by classical saxophonists.

Local talent will also entertain the masses, with performances from the Kent County Youth Orchestra, and the English premiere of Little Book of Monsters, performed by 1,000 east Kent children. Street theatre, music-theatre and family entertainment are also on the bill.

HOST: Deal Festival has music, dance and theatre

A community event will see residents given the chance to put their questions to a panel including Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke and chair of the Deal Society Stephanie Hayman, at the Big Deal Question event. Members of the public can raise any issues about the town they want.

Organisers said the 2012 festival promises to be special, particularly as this year marks its 30th birthday.

"Deal and Dover are special places – with wonderfully varied communities, sights to see and fascinating history – and our festival celebrates that uniqueness," said a spokesperson.

Go to www.dealfestival.co.uk for the full programme of events, venues and ticket details.

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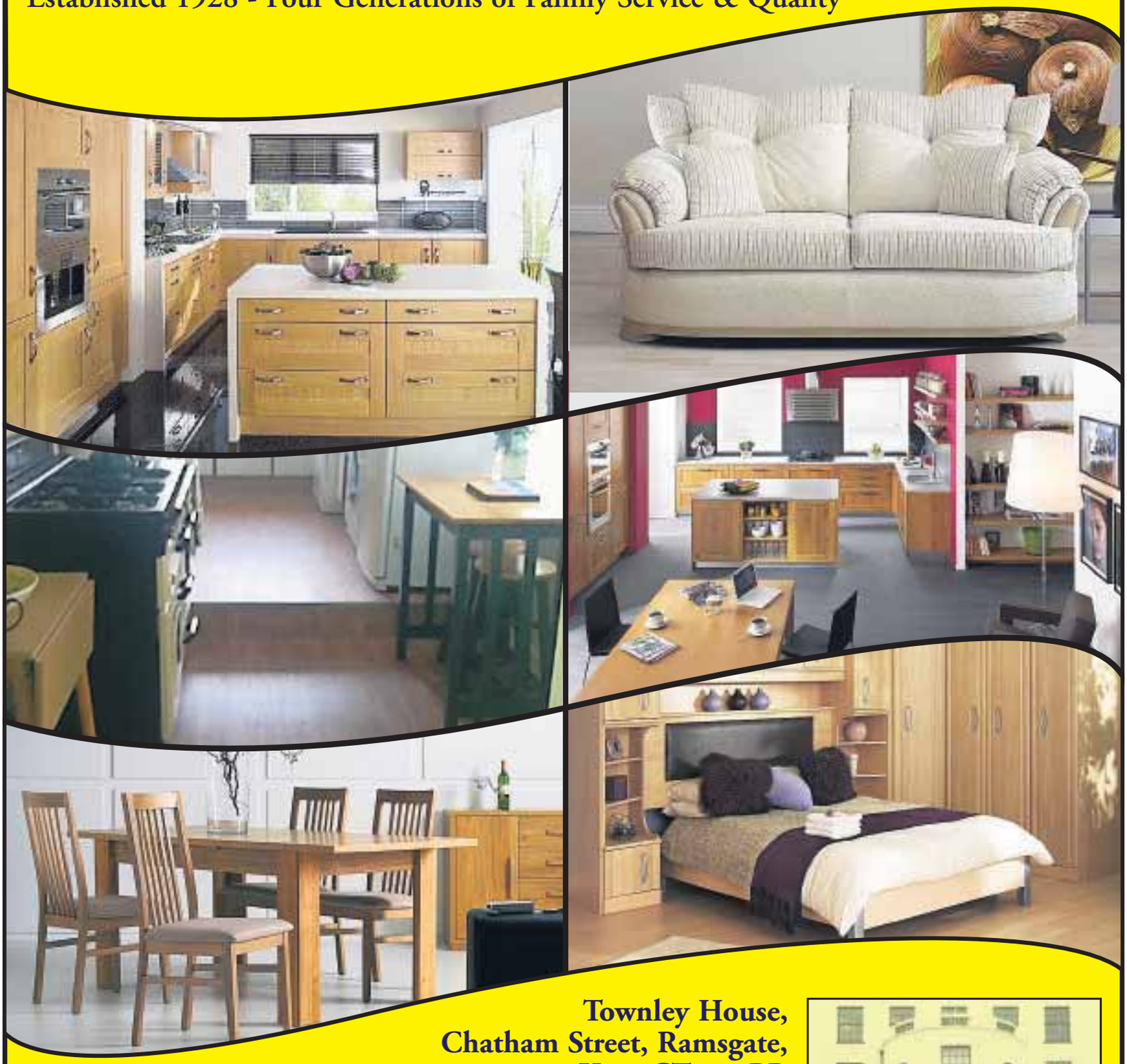

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ART

Candid Emin opens up to Fry at Turner gallery talks

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

TRACEY Emin would be dead by now if it were not for her art which she says "keeps me alive constantly".

The Margate artist made the revelation to actor Stephen Fry during a public talk at the Turner Contemporary gallery in her hometown of Margate.

The gallery is currently given over to the exhibition She Lay Down Deep Beneath the Sea, a series of new works by Emin.

During the event Emin spoke of her upbringing up in Kent, her art, and a vision for the future of the town.

She told Fry: "I'm a totally serious artist and all I have ever had in my life is art. I left school when I was 13, and went back when I was 15 for a few months.

"If it hadn't been for art, I would probably have been dead by now. Art is like my lover that keeps me alive constantly."

Emin was raped as a teenager, didn't have the grades to make it into art college, and worked at Dreamland for free, but the artist said she still had a love for Margate.

She said about being back at the Kent seaside: "I never thought there would be an amazing art gallery in Margate where I am having an exhibition; where I am showing when I'm nearly 50, when I'm still alive; when everything is positive.

"I realise how lucky I am."

The 48-year-old artist has had strong critics of her work ever since her 'bed installation' which was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1999.

However, despite a mixed response from the art world, she became professor of drawing at the Royal Academy last year, and told the audience she held her first lesson in Margate.

Emin, who went to King Ethelbert School and attended Medway College, also spoke of her vision for the town and said art and culture was the stimulus Margate needed.

She said: "What I see is wherever art goes, regeneration goes. What I would like in Margate is a film festival. I'd like to have a massive antiques market that happens maybe twice a year and I would like to see more hotels.

"The last thing I want to see when I drive into Margate is Tesco. We want to see Margate in big flashing letters."

She spoke with passion about her hopes for the town, calling it "sexy", and told of her intention to make "make Margate look cool".

Emin added: "I'd like to see the Lido regenerated, Tony Savage to be re-born and playing the organ, and I'd like to see the beauty contest start again. It's possible, we just need the money to do it, that's all."

Fry said to her: "You are the most vulnerable artist. I don't mean this in a crude way, but you've opened your legs to the public in the sense of your sexuality, your sexual history and your femininity.

"It's very much part of who you are as an artist, which is extremely brave and tender."

The QI presenter added: "Margate has the good fortune of being the hometown of Tracey Emin.

When the people from around the world come to England, they should come to Margate. I think there should always be an Emin here."

Picture: MANU PALOMEQUE

A PERFECT SETTING: Artist Tracey Emin went back to her hometown of Margate for a talk with presenter Stephen Fry at Turner Contemporary, where she is currently exhibiting

EDUCATION

Kent Test applications closing after weekend, parents warned

APPLICATIONS for the Kent Test close on Monday. The Kent Test is used to identify whether a child meets the criteria for a place at a grammar school, for the start of secondary school in September, 2013. Parents can apply online or print off a registration form. They can apply at www.kent.gov.uk or send a registration form to the Secondary Admissions Team, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ by July 2 enclosing a SAE if they would like their registration acknowledged.

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News

TECHNOLOGY

82-year-old IT whizz happy to help OAPs get connected

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A TECHNOLOGY expert who has spent his life working in electronics is still giving computer lessons – at the grand age of 82.

Norman Heath, (pictured), from Biddenden, near Ashford, holds lessons in his front room for fellow villagers, and also helps neighbours with any technology problems they may have.

Fourteen people from the village attended his latest series of classes, which taught the basics of how to use computers and the internet to older people who have struggled to embrace the world wide web.x

Mr Heath, who lives with his daughter and son-in-law, also set up the Weald and Kent Computer Club to help those taking lessons stay in touch.

He said: "I enjoy helping older people in rural areas get to learn how to use computers, and the ages tend to range between 55 and 70.

"By the end of the first year's course we had more people asking if they could take part, so it was decided to have another batch of classes and it's kept going since then."

Mr Heath has been running the classes since 2002, but has spent his life working with technology since the age of 16, having been an electronics engineer who helped build the first TV sets after World War Two.

He also installed television sets at the various royal wedding venues including Princess Margaret's, and constructed sets at the Queen's annual OBE ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral in the 1960s.

Mr Heath worked in television development for nearly 20 years and held other technical roles before he retired aged 60.

He said: "I am interested in technology and hardware, and people who have problems with their digital cameras or computers can come to me and I'll try and sort it out.

"I have a little workshop in the garage, and we're hoping to have another lot of computer lessons in the autumn. We'll teach them in the sitting room, and we've even got space in the dining room, too."

Mr Heath runs classes as a volunteer at computer company, Training Highway. The organisation said he is a great asset.

Managing director Phil Birch said: "Norman is one of our most valuable, long-standing volunteers and has helped many people over the years including allowing us to run training courses and computer clinics at his home in Biddenden.

"He is of the old school where things don't get thrown away if they can be mended."

■ **More news at www.yourashford.co.uk.**

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News

ENVIRONMENT

£1.2m appeal to save white cliffs for future generations

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THEY have stood as a symbol of home throughout the centuries, acting as the nation's frontier at the gateway to England.

But one stretch of the famous White Cliffs of Dover – and arguably the most iconic – remains in private hands, meaning it could one day be at the mercy of inappropriate development.

In a bid to secure its future, the National Trust has launched a £1.2 million fundraising appeal to buy the stretch after the current owner offered to sell it to the conservation charity.

The Trust already looks after and manages the white cliffs, with the exception of the 1.35km sweep between the visitor centre and South Foreland lighthouse which overlooks the port.

Charity bosses say it will complete the "missing link" of coastline, uniting a stretch of more than five miles.

Assistant director, operations, at National Trust for the South East, Nic Durston, said it would allow the trust to protect the historical landmark.

ICONIC: White Cliffs of Dover

"We've been given the opportunity to acquire this stretch by the current owner," he said.

"We already own a lot of Dover's white cliffs and it means we can conserve this wonderful landscape for the nation."

He said that if an unsympathetic owner took control of the cliff it could damage the land.

"They could take an inappropriate approach to development or reduce public access."

"While this section of is not under threat at the moment, if it was under an unsympathetic owner that couldn't be guaranteed," he added.

And he pointed the recent 100ft 'Roy the Redeemer' statue of England football boss Roy Hodgson that was temporarily placed on the cliffs by bookie Paddy Power.

"What that kind of thing invites is heavy machinery coming onto the cliffs and damaging the landscape," he said.

The appeal is the charity's biggest ever coastal fundraiser, with £1.2m needed by the end of the year.

Historian and television presenter Dan Snow has thrown his weight behind the appeal.

"For me it's simple; the White Cliffs of Dover are one of the country's greatest and most iconic landmarks," he said.

■ **To donate go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/white-cliffsappeal, text the amount you wish to donate to 70070, for example 'DOVR02 £5', or call 0844 800 1895.**

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COMPETITION

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WE are offering one lucky reader a VIP weekend to see Edvard Munch: The Modern Eye at Tate Modern plus a luxurious stay at the Hilton Tower Bridge Hotel.

Few other modern artists are better known and yet less understood than Norwegian painter Edvard Munch (1863-1944).

This exhibition examines the artist's work from the 20th century, including 60 paintings, many from the Munch Museum in Oslo, with a rare showing of his work in film and photography.

Munch is often seen as a 19th century Symbolist painter, but this exhibition shows how he engaged with modernity and was inspired by the everyday life outside of his studio, such as street scenes and incidents in the media – including The House is Burning 1925-7.

The show also examines how Munch repeated a single motif over a long period of time to re-work it, as can be seen in his most celebrated works, such as The Sick Child 1885-1927 and The Girls on the Bridge 1902-27.

To celebrate the opening of this exciting exhibition, Tate Modern is giving one lucky winner two free tickets to see it, a souvenir exhibition catalogue and poster.

What's more, the lucky person will be able to make a weekend of it with a luxurious night's stay and breakfast at the Hilton Tower Bridge Hotel.

Set against the backdrop of one of London's best-known historical landmarks, Hilton Tower Bridge is a modern hotel with a striking exterior.

Picture: EDVARD MUNCH THE GIRLS ON THE BRIDGE 1927 (DETAIL) © THE MUNCH MUSEUM / THE MUNCH - ELLINGSEN GROUP, BONO, OSLO / DACS, LONDON 2012

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■ Terms and Conditions: 1st prize includes two free tickets to see Edvard Munch: The Modern Eye at Tate Modern, subject to availability, one souvenir catalogue, an exhibition poster and one night bed and breakfast at the Hilton Tower Bridge Hotel. Hilton prizes can be claimed subject to availability of the hotel and excludes stays from July 27-August 12, 2012. Blackout dates apply. The prize is valid for redemption on Friday or Saturday night stays only. The prize is valid on any double or twin room. If specified room type on prize is not available, the next best room type will be provided. Breakfast is only available at select restaurants designated by hotel. Drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and food in addition to the provided meal menu ("Extras") are excluded from the prize. 1st Prize winners are responsible for any and all applicable fees, service charges, all insurance, federal, state, provincial, local and foreign taxes, if any, gratuities, meals, incidental charges and any other unspecified expenses associated with acceptance or use of the prize.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

ONE AND ONLY: The Garden of England has been formed over the centuries by a unique series of factors

Unique heritage that's shaped our landscape

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE reason why Kent retains its unique countryside and architecture from past centuries is outlined in a new book about the growth of England.

Painstakingly researched and written by Harry Mount, a former Daily Telegraph writer and New York correspondent, How England made the English: From Hedgerows to Heathrow describes the national characteristics behind the look of the landscape.

It describes a population with, "a liking for old things, for smallness and gentleness; a preference for accidental, natural beauty over grand human designs".

Published by Viking Books it describes these shores as, "the most geographically varied small country in the world (which) has produced its most idiosyncratic people; and the English character and the landscape of that small country are inextricably linked".

Kent's brickwork, architecture, soil, crops, castles and churches are all featured along with its closeness to France – with consequences in times of war and peace.

One unique aspect of the county's heritage is inheritance laws which differed from the rest of the country from the 11th century until 1925, when the Administration of Estates Act standardised regulations.

The rest of England followed a law known as 'primogeniture' – where land passed to the oldest son – whereas in Kent an Anglo-Saxon law saw it equally distributed between all sons.

Known as 'gavelkind' – an old Kentish word – it was also prevalent in Wales and Ireland.

William the Conqueror is given credit for letting Kent keep its own laws as elsewhere he introduced Norman-style regulations to reinforce his royal position, although why is not clear.

But the rule led to smaller local fields and holdings, which to this day means there are few big estates, country houses, parks or grand landowning estates compared to elsewhere in the country.

The smaller plots of land also meant it was more enclosed, so there is little of the large open-field farming which is a major feature of the landscape in other counties.

The book also describes how Wealden clay produced the right growing conditions for orchards, and that the loamy soils of Thanet are ideal for fruit growing, while the stiffer clays between Whitstable and Canterbury are harder to cultivate – so the ancient woodland of Blean still survives.

As the closest thing to a frontier England possesses, Kent also needed to be well fortified and as early as 2AD the Roman Classis Britannica – or British Fleet – was based at Lympne and Dover.

Today, more castles exist in Kent than any other southern county, with Rochester boasting the highest keep in England.

Canterbury's place as the home of the Church of England is also the result of this proximity to foreign parts.

When Pope Gregory dispatched St Augustine to this country in 597AD, he made the city his foothold and eventual base and there are still remains of 10 seventh century churches built by the saint or his converts in the county.

And when cathedrals started to be built, easy import of top-quality French stone meant the central tower of Canterbury cathedral has a core of half a million bricks wrapped in limestone from around Caen, Normandy.

Publisher Viking said: "The book spans new England as well as the rolling hills and patchwork landscape of Tourist Board England: the hedge-funder's taste for Victorian terraced houses turned into minimalist white boxes and the steel reinforced concrete that changed the English city horizon.

"In England the English have been shaped by our weather geology and geography; by being a coal rich, northerly island off the edge of a vast land mass, moored between the Atlantic and the North Sea, warmed by the Gulf Stream."

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OPINION

Powerful case for nuclear plant

Damian Collins, Folkestone and Hythe MP, says Romney Marsh needs a nuclear power station for jobs today and to secure our youths' future

THE people of Romney Marsh need and deserve good-quality jobs, now and in the future, and recent news suggests there is cause for optimism.

The operator of Dungeness B power station, EDF Energy, has confirmed it is in talks with the National Grid and the Government about extending the plant's operating life, meaning it will be producing electricity for at least another 10 years from now.

This will be welcomed by the hundreds of people who are employed both directly and indirectly by the station, while also giving us more time to press the case for a next-generation Dungeness C plant.

In the two years since I became Member of Parliament for Folkestone and Hythe, I have probably spent more time and effort on this issue than any other.

Nuclear power is absolutely crucial to the local economy and the many jobs that are dependent on it.

The position of the Government is that it is a difficult site because of the habitats regulations, but that the "door remains opens" to building a new station there.

I believe the right balance has to be struck between protecting the habitats and the future livelihoods of those on Romney Marsh.

For the last 50 years, the power stations have lived alongside habitats which are part of an evolving landscape. The shingle has regenerated so successfully that the land itself now has a very high designation protection.

The site where a new nuclear station would go has been marked out, on land which has already been largely disturbed where the first two were built.

The decommissioning of Dungeness A will also free up about seven hectares which could be used as a construction site to support the building of a new C station, complete with an existing access road.

The loss of protected natural habitat, which is the sole objection of Natural England to any new build, could be therefore be avoided.

Thousands of jobs would be created in the construction of a new facility and I have already asked the Government to review the advice it was given and look at the case again.

I will reinforce this message in my upcoming meeting with the new secretary of state for energy, Ed Davey.

There is also the issue of building a nuclear waste storage facility, which Shepway District Council is consulting on. We should have this debate, but I believe we can do better for the future of the Marsh.

If it is built, my concern is it will be enormously disruptive to the economy.

I believe the right balance has to be struck between habitat and the people

It would be the equivalent of building the Channel Tunnel again, but instead of a high-speed rail connection to the Continent, it will just be a hole in the ground.

At present 70 per cent of waste is currently above the ground in Cumbria, so it is hard to see why the Government would go to the trouble and expense of transporting it to the other side of the country.

It would also need to be built some distance inland away from the protected areas, not near the existing power stations, plus no jobs would be created until the start of construction in 2025, and when it started operating in 2040.

What Romney Marsh needs is a new power station while attracting other companies to come and invest here, to create jobs and opportunities for our residents today and to secure the future for our young people.

KOS COMMENT

Don't let travel chaos spoil your excitement

TRAVEL during the Olympics is without a doubt going to be hellish for a lot of people.

And those who missed out on tickets and find themselves stuck on a packed train or gridlocked motorway are likely to feel particularly resentful.

But however awful the travel situation, the excitement should counteract that. With Kent hosting the Paralympic road cycling and several training camps, the buzz is going to be inescapable.

We're on the doorstep of the biggest sporting event in the world, we have two stopovers for the Torch which is spending more time here than any other county, and we've two residents who have qualified for the Games. Can't we put up with a bit of travel chaos?

Festival season is here

KENT'S festival season has officially started at the Hop Farm, to be closely followed by Lounge on the Farm.

Or for those who prefer to avoid dancing in muddy fields, Wimbledon is back and can be enjoyed at home. Either way, there'll be something to help forget last weekend's football pain.

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Adonis blues mating at Queensdown by Colin Brotherwood

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Cameron is distracting us

DAVID Cameron has again sought to blame the poor and unemployed for the problems of this nation. He claims there's a culture of entitlement among those who claim housing benefit, especially the under 25s it seems.

A single person who's unemployed isn't better off than someone on minimum wage. Over 35s in Shepway are given around £80pcm less than can be earned on the minimum wage, even when you take into account free prescriptions. Those under 35, because of changes to housing benefit, are given a further £150pcm less. Taking housing benefit from under 25s will mean they have about £345pcm to live on, including paying rent and council tax.

This is not about a culture of entitlement. David Cameron is relying on two things. Firstly, the poor and unemployed won't vote as they feel every party is lying to them.

Secondly, people want someone to blame for their suffering. David Cameron has no intention of making his rich cronies accept their share of the blame, so he is using this as a distraction to divide and conquer the public.

The only real solution to this financial crisis is growth and an end to tax avoidance and evasion. The best way to do this, instead of throwing money at the banks, is to give people the means to improve their finances and to spend, by offering cheap loans direct to the public to help them get out of debt permanently.

Gary Fuller
Shepway Liberal Democrats

Building needs to be prudent

"ASHFORD needs more houses" and "hard choices must be made" are Ashford council's repeated response to criticism of its housing strategy. Is it true?

The council claims to have created 7,000 new jobs. Official figures show Ashford has only 400 more jobs now than it had in 2004. With an increase of 7,800 in population over that period, jobs haven't kept pace with people.

The council is scrapping its housing targets to use a jobs-led approach to forecast housing needs. The right approach, but on past jobs record housing needs will be modest. With 500 long-term empty houses and more than 14,500 new houses in the pipeline for completion by 2030, the council's jobs-based forecast of 14,470 new houses needed by then will be met.

The developers of Cheesemans Green have been offered a government sweetener of £23,000 per house to start building 100 houses earlier than market forces dictate. Supply will soon exceed demand, pushing down local house values.

The council says extra housing at Chilmington and Tenterden is needed as Ashford's economy will outperform not just Kent, but the South East and the rest of the UK. Based on the past, this is a wildly optimistic and totally irresponsible basis for promoting developments of that scale. We all want Ashford to prosper, attract inward investment, its residents to have better jobs, better education and be better off. But just building houses will not make this happen.

The argument is clear. Be realistic and prudent with our environment. Build the houses in the pipeline, but on old sites not green fields, create real new jobs and postpone irreversible and unnecessary development until we know where the economy is going.

Tony Bartlett, Economy and Skills Spokesperson, Ashford Independent Party

Gay marriage a waste of time

CAN I reply to last week's letters and Charlotte Stuart's reference to gay marriage. It is my belief this small minority should not be allowed the sacrament of marriage. Why?

1) For thousands of years the principle of marriage was a man and woman making a contract to live together, for the procreation of children, the bringing together of two families and most importantly for the love of each other.

2) There no need for homosexuals to marry? They have civil partnerships, which give same-sex couples rights identical to civil marriage.

3) A civil partnership is a relationship between two people of the same sex so a normal-sexed couple cannot have a civil partnership.

4) Two spinsters went to the European Court because they wanted a civil partnership, as it would protect them from inheritance tax. They were refused as they were sisters.

5) The civil partnership is legislation for homosexuals and lesbians, so why cannot heterosexuals have a state of partnership purely for them, something we call marriage.

6) She supports LGBT which is a Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transvestite organisation. How does a bisexual marry? Does she want marriage to involve three people?

This gay marriage issue is not about equality it is about a very small minority getting power above the majority. The homosexual/lesbian community have so many extra rights, they have legislation that gives positive discrimination in jobs such as civil servants, police, fire service, etc, they are not given jobs on their ability first and foremost.

Governments seem to have an unhealthy interest in obscure sexual habits, that says more about them then it does the ordinary man.

The Office for National Statistics says 480,000 (one per cent) consider themselves gay or lesbian, and 245,000 (0.5 per cent) bisexual. That's 1.5 per cent of the population. Why is the Government wasting time and money on a minority – there are more important issues.

Martin Clarke, Sittingbourne

Majority are being ignored

THE mass demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq were ignored, the petition for an EU referendum squashed, the promises made to get elected have been ditched with serious issues shelved.

So what does the Government agonize about? Gay marriage. Why are the majority always ignored and minorities pandered to?

For millenia 'marriage' has been defined as between two people of the opposite sex, usually for the procreation of children. Why is there such a desperate need to change the definition of another word, when even numerous gay peole have said it is wrong? There are more serious issues.

Maybe next time the majority want something done and the Government isn't listening, they should enlist the help of some minority.

Phil Granger, West Malling

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Friendly society offers safe (but small) return

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q HAVE you heard of the Foresters Friendly Society? Is it safe, and is its monthly tax-exempt scheme worthwhile?

A FRIENDLY societies began in Victorian times as a way for ordinary people to save. They are mutual organisations, owned by their members. The Foresters (0800 988 2418) is pretty typical. It has been in business for about 175 years, and is still allowed to offer tax benefits to small savers. Its monthly scheme lets you invest £15-£25 each month for 10 years or longer, and you get a share in the profits of the society. This is tax-exempt, and does not affect any other tax-free savings you might have, such as a cash Isa. Friendly societies are regarding as a bit plodding, so do not expect dramatic profits, but you can expect to be safe. The Foresters is fully licensed by the Financial Services Authority.

Q WE HAVE just received the annual renewal form for our home and contents insurance, and one of the questions asked is whether anyone in the house has any criminal convictions. Does the insurance company have the right to ask this? If so, can you explain why? Our son was convicted last year of a minor drugs offence and for taking someone's car without their consent, but neither of these offences was in any way connected to our home.

A THE insurance company does have the right to ask about convictions. You can refuse to answer, but the chances are that the company would then refuse to renew your policy. It is a sad fact that if someone living in the property has a conviction, there is more chance of a claim on the policy. The claim need not be because your son steals from you or damages your home, but it could well be that he knows people who might steal or cause damage. If you do not declare the convictions, and later make a claim on the policy and the insurance company discovers your son's record, your claim could be turned down just because you did not tell the truth on the renewal form. Your premiums may rise, but if you want to be insured, the only safe thing to do is come clean now.

Q MY daughter booked a holiday with friends and paid a £200 deposit on her credit card. She paid the balance by cheque after being told there would be a surcharge if she used her Visa card. Now the group has been told there are problems with the hotel and they may have to stay elsewhere or be split up. She is afraid the hotel company may be going bust. If it does, what are her rights?

A ACCORDING to the details you gave me, your daughter and her friends arranged their own travel by car and booked the hotel themselves, so the protection that applies to most package holidays will not work here. If the hotel owners try to make changes that are not covered by your daughter's booking agreement, she can simply say no and ask for her money back. Of course, if the company is in trouble this might not work. There is one big gleam of hope, though. Your daughter paid the hotel deposit by credit card. This means she is covered by the law that makes the card issuer jointly liable if something goes wrong. It does not matter that she paid the balance by cheque. So, if everything turns sour, tell your daughter to contact the card company, and say she wants to make a claim under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. This should mean that she will get all her money back.

Q OUR fixed-rate mortgage ends soon. We like the idea of a base rate tracker, but if the base rate rises, could we then switch to a fixed rate?

A SEVERAL lenders, including Woolwich, Nationwide and the Yorkshire Building Society, offer tracker mortgages that allow you to switch later to a fixed rate. Consult a local broker for the best deal.

Q I WOULD like to invest my modest savings in a fixed-interest bond or account that pays monthly interest and is completely safe. I have found an account that yields 3pc interest, and I wonder whether you know of anything better?

A UNITED National Bank (https://unbonlinesaver.com) offers a one-year fixed-interest account that yields 3.45pc on a minimum investment of £2,000. You can choose to leave your money untouched and earn interest of 3.45pc, or you can opt for a monthly income with interest at 3.4pc.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Be sure to byte back over banking glitch

The shambles at the Royal Bank of Scotland group has taken days to be sorted out, and the knock-on effects could last for some time. Millions of worried bank customers – and not just those people who have accounts at RBS or Natwest – are looking for answers. Personal-finance editor **ADAM AIKEN** answers some of the key questions raised by the problem...

I BANK AT NATWEST OR RBS

IF YOU are one of the 17.5 million customers of RBS, Natwest or Ulster Bank, the group has promised you will not be left out of pocket.

If you are in a short-term dire situation, you can go to a branch to ask for emergency cash.

Although the bank has promised to do all it can to help, it might be worth taking as much evidence as you can.

For example, your employer might be prepared to write a note confirming your wages have been paid into the system.

Branches were open throughout last weekend, and were open for longer than usual during the week, too. There were also extra staff in the call centres.

WHAT ABOUT NON-RBS CUSTOMERS WHO ARE AFFECTED?

IT'S not just payments to and from RBS accounts that were affected. For example, company A's salary from RBS might not have arrived in Person B's account at Lloyds TSB in time, and Person B's standing order to Person C's Barclays account might have bounced, and Person C's direct debit to Company D's HSBC account might not have gone through, either.

In other words, there could a whole trail of bounced transactions and subsequent bank charges that need to be sorted out.

The banking industry generally will try to make sure no-one is left out of pocket, for several reasons.

First, the root of the problem is clear – it's not consumers' fault.

Second, other banks and building societies will not want to receive their share of the anger that is in the air at the moment.

Finally – although it's unlikely they will say so publicly – there will be a number of institutions that watched this whole thing unfold and thought "There but for the grace of God go I".

The most important thing to do is monitor your account closely over the next few days.

If you have any problems, keep a note of the details and contact your own bank or building society as soon as possible. It should then liaise with RBS on your behalf.

CREDIT CRISIS: Make sure you keep a note of any discrepancies to your account

WHAT ABOUT CREDIT SCORES?

THE RBS group has said it will work with other banks to make sure credit histories are not affected.

This is an important point because a black mark on your credit score can impact your ability to take out future loans, credit cards and mortgages. It might even affect things such as new mobile phone contracts.

Because of the chain of events such as the one outlined above, there may be people who have never been near an RBS or Natwest branch in their lives who are affected by this.

The best thing to do is wait for a few weeks and then contact the credit reference agencies (Experian, Equifax and Callcredit).

This will cost you £2 a go (although there are often free trial periods for new customers), but it's something you should do on a regular basis anyway as your credit report can help you prevent ID fraud.

If you spot any black marks on your credit history that are a result of the RBS fiasco, contact the bank or company that made the entry and ask it to amend it.

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Entrepreneur is looking out for Kent's forward-thinking firms

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ONLINE business resource Smarta has announced the launch of a competition to find the UK's most innovative businesses – and its founder wants to show what Kent companies have to offer.

Entrepreneur Shaa Wasmund, from Whitstable, said the county's firms had many good ideas and so many forward-thinking members of the business community – and this needed to be shown on the national stage.

The overall winner of 2012 Smarta 100, which is co-sponsored by O2, will receive £10,000 in cash; there are other prizes on offer.

"We are trying to find the 100 smartest businesses in the UK," said Wasmund, speaking during a break from addressing a conference of European entrepreneurs in Madrid.

"These may not be the ones with the highest turnover or the most profitable. They may be smaller companies, which are often overlooked when it comes to awards.

"If you're running a small business that stands out from the crowd that grows fans and followers as well as just customers, and you feel is worthy of national recognition, we want to hear from you.

BIG IDEAS: Smarta's Shaa Wasmund

"We're delighted to welcome O2 back as headline partner of the Smarta 100 to help us find and celebrate the most exciting entrepreneurs in the UK."

Businesses can apply online at www.smarta.com/100 and the closing date for applications is Saturday, September 1.

"As I am from Kent myself, I would love to see as many businesses as possible from the county being put forward," said Wasmund, whose business offers authoritative advice and help for small companies.

An all-star line up of judges will look at the entrants.

They include Theo Paphitis, from Ryman and star of Dragons' Den; Rowan Gormley, founder of Naked Wines and winner of the Smarta 100 in 2011; Mike Soutar, founder of Shortlist and Stylist magazines; Thea Green MBE, founder of Nails Inc; and Andy McLoughlin, founder of British technology success story Huddle.

Alongside the first prize are six special awards, with each winner receiving £1,000. These are:

- Innovation – sponsored by Brother
- Resources – sponsored by Simply Business
- People – sponsored by NatWest
- Marketing – sponsored by Seven Hills
- Technology – sponsored by Intuit
- Social Impact – sponsored by Social Enterprise UK

Chairman of judges Theo Paphitis said: "I'm delighted to be joining the Smarta 100 search for this year's most exciting small businesses.

"I admire people with the passion and energy to build their own businesses and can't wait to discover the enterprising, game-changing big businesses of tomorrow that I know are out there."

Ben Dowd, business director, O2 UK, said: "The Smarta 100 is an excellent opportunity to showcase the brilliant British businesses that are revitalising the national economy through their ambition and innovation.

"We want to celebrate but also create a forum for sharing how businesses are thinking differently, becoming more agile and changing their business model to respond to the economic climate.

"First and foremost at O2 we want to help British business and we believe we can, through our people and our solutions. The Smarta 100 gives us an opportunity to immerse ourselves in those businesses in the UK to gain insight into what they are doing to grow and thrive."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

New venture a Shore thing for talented pair

COMMUNICATIONS specialists Michele Brailsford and Jane Millington have pooled their skills to provide a new service for east Kent firms.

Shore Communications is operating in Folkestone and Dover and was formed by the women, who first met when they worked at a London corporate communications agency.

"We have extensive experience of working for leading companies in multiple sectors, including healthcare, retail, banking, education and telecommunications," said Brailsford, who previously worked as a journalist on regional and national newspapers.

"Combining this with our knowledge of this area's unique demographic means we are ideally placed to create communications packages that perfectly meet our clients' needs."

Working closely with an established network of print and web designers, photographers and printers, Shore Communications can produce:

- magazines
- E-newsletters
- websites
- press releases
- marketing brochures
- annual reports

"In such a tough economic climate, it's even more important for businesses to make sure they are getting their message to the right audience," said Millington.

TRAVEL

Dover the perfect 2013 port of call as cruise companies book in early

THE Port of Dover is set to host 149 cruise calls during the 2013 cruise season.

Ships from prominent cruise organisations including Fred. Olsen, Saga, Holland America, Princess Cruises, MSC and six-star luxury cruise lines Crystal Cruises and Seabourn Cruise Lines will all return to Dover Cruise Port during their voyages.

These are in addition to the AIDA Cruise Line, which will be bringing another new ship to Dover called the AIDAstella, which will set course on its maiden voyage through Northern Europe on March 17, following its Christening ceremony. A new four-day city tour will take passengers from Hamburg to Amsterdam and Dover in March and April.

Carnival Cruise Lines will also be returning to Dover, with the Carnival Legend operating nine turnaround calls for a variety of northern European itineraries.

In addition, MSC will have nine port calls, enabling passengers to experience the delights Kent has to offer as part of their tour.

The MSC Poescia was a recent visitor to the port and hosted a presentation on the attractions of Cyprus.

Kate O'Hara, head of business delivery at the Port of Dover, said: "First-class levels of service, excellent facilities and a wealth of shore excursion opportunities, coupled with a high-speed rail service to the centre of London, have contributed significantly to the continuous growth we are enjoying.

"Our repeat customers already know there's no better way to start a European cruise."

AWARDS

Childrenswear store dressed for success

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based Childrensalon, the designer childrenswear store, has won two categories at the Drapers and Retail Week PayPal retail awards.

Competing amongst the best from online retail, including household names such as ASOS and House of Fraser, Childrensalon walked away as a winner in both the Best Customer Experience category and the PayPal Award For Overall Excellence.

The company was also highly commended for the Best Independent Retailer award.

Chief executive Michele Harriman-Smith said: "Being recognised for our customer experience is very special to us. Commitment to our customers is at the heart of everything we do and I see it as an affirmation of our customer-centric approach."

Digital experience director Sorcha Harriman-Smith said: "The Award For Overall Excellence is a fantastic achievement. It reflects our incredible team, technology and our approach to online that allows us to learn and innovate at a very fast pace while staying true to our values.

"This brings us one step closer to our vision of being the best-loved childrenswear shop in the world".

All finalists went through a rigorous evaluation process, performed by a panel of 14 leading retail and business experts.

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Job-seekers told to be flexible when looking for work to boost their prospects of success

AS the economic forecast continues to be uncertain, employers are becoming more cautious about taking on new staff, according to a survey.

And experts are urging the county's job-seekers to be as flexible as possible when it comes to looking for opportunities.

A report by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) and management accountancy KPMG showed a modest rise in permanent placements in May but at the slowest growth rate of the last five months.

The REC's report looked at data from 400 UK recruitment and employment consultancies.

But the report paints a very different picture for temporary staff recruitment, pointing to a surge in hiring in certain sectors such as financial services.

Carmen Watson, managing director of the UK's biggest temporary recruitment company, with more than 200 branches across the UK, said: "As the economy continues to slow down, demand for temporary workers is rising, especially in certain sectors such as financial services, energy and logistics.

"More and more companies are using temporary staff to help them expand their bandwidth to cater for surges in workload without being saddled with unwanted overheads in fragile economic conditions.

"Some sectors are moving in a counter-cyclical trend to the current economic conditions and are on a more permanent growth path such as technology and logistics, and it is entirely possible many of the temporary staff taken on will become permanent positions.

"We strongly urge candidates in Kent to be as flexible as possible when applying for jobs. Despite high numbers of unemployed, there are still many jobs that remain unfilled and provide opportunities for those who broaden their horizons."

TURNING THE TIDE: Roger House says many of the county's small firms would like to take on more staff but a lack of funds is holding them back

Unemployment falls in every district for a second month

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE number of people unemployed in Kent fell by 668 to 36,934 last month, with every district across the county seeing falls in their jobless figures.

Figures show that this is the second consecutive month this has happened.

Roger House, Federation of Small Businesses chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The fall in Kent unemployment by 668 is good news, but we must not get complacent. Our spring FSB Kent Small Business Barometer shows that one in five small firms has cut jobs since last year.

"They do want to grow and take on more employees but are being held back by higher operating costs, a lack of credit from the banks and a squeeze on spending.

"Our FSB national 'Voice of Small Business' Index shows four in 10 small firms are having their applications for finance turned down and we know that many small firms have missed growth opportunities because they can't access the money they need.

"There needs to be alternative sources of finance that small firms can tap into if the nation wants to see unemployment fall further."

The number of UK self-employed was up by 84,000 to 4.7 million according to the same set of statistics. House said: "It is great news that more people are taking the leap and going it alone as the record high in self-employment shows.

"With many people struggling to find work or a full-time job, we should be doing all we can to help those with entrepreneurial spirit to set up in business and the FSB Real-Life Entrepreneur campaign seeks to help people at every stage of their business life-cycle."

"The Government's New Enterprise Allowance scheme is an excellent idea but needs to be extended if we want to see more budding entrepreneurs turn their ideas and enthusiasm into action."

THE TOPS: Jessica, third left, joins Furley Page

High-flying graduate Jessica raises the bar to join ranks of top county law firm

ONE OF Furley Page's recently-qualified solicitors has become the latest addition to the Kent law firm's rapidly-expanding corporate team.

Jessica Gidley, 26, from Canterbury, who spent two years training with Furley Page, now specialises in corporate and commercial work, including guiding clients through business sales and acquisitions, reviewing, drafting and negotiating commercial contracts and advising on copyright, trademark and design-right issues.

Gidley, a former pupil at the Weald of Kent Grammar School in Tonbridge, joined Furley Page as a legal assistant in 2007 after graduating from the University of Kent.

She completed her legal-practice course at City University in London, where she obtained a distinction and was awarded the Martin Dockray Prize for gaining the highest overall exam results that year.

Gidley gained experience in the firm's top-ranking corporate and commercial dispute-resolution teams before qualifying as a solicitor in 2011.

She is based at the firm's Thames Gateway office at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

FINANCE

High earners must take stock before change to child benefit comes in

CHANGES to the taxation of child benefit due to take effect in January of next year could leave many higher-income parents out of pocket, according to financial analysts.

From Monday, January 7, any taxpayer with an adjusted net income of more than £50,000 will be hit with a new income-tax charge on the child-benefit payment either they or their partner receives.

The charge comes into effect once income exceeds £50,000 and increases on a sliding scale until income exceeds £60,000, at which point the charge amounts to the full annual benefit entitlement – thereby stripping any person earning £60,000 or more of all their own or their partner's child-benefit payments.

According to DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, however, high-earning parents may be able to offset the loss of all or some of their child-benefit entitlement by managing their finances more effectively.

Alison Turner, based at DSH's offices in Maidstone, said there were a number of options available to those affected.

"This radical change to the child-benefit system is expected to affect the tax positions of more than one million parents across the UK, but with some careful planning they could avoid or minimise the financial loss," she said.

"For example, by increasing pension contributions or by taking advantage of any salary-sacrifice schemes available that are offered by their employer, parents could manage their net adjustable income to fall below the £50,000 threshold.

"Taxpayers who do not wish to pay the new income-tax charge may simply decide to opt out of receiving child benefit.

"However, as this may affect their National Insurance credits, which in turn will affect their future entitlement to a state pension, it is advisable for them to remain registered in the system – even if they do not actually receive any child benefit.

"One additional consequence of the new tax charge will be that hundreds of thousands of child-benefit recipients will be required to complete a self-assessment tax return for the first time."

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Training, courses and careers

Why vocational qualifications could build you a future in the construction industry

YOUNG people across Kent and the South East are being asked to consider vocational qualifications as an essential and practical route into construction – especially in these times of economic uncertainty.

The call came from CITB-ConstructionSkills as part of this year's Vocational Qualifications (VQ) Day.

VQ Day was a national celebration of vocational qualifications, including apprenticeships and other work-based learning paths.

The Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for construction used VQ Day to showcase some of its success stories, and to demonstrate to young people that vocational qualifications can provide them with practical sector and job specific skills and knowledge, helping to improve their employability within an increasingly challenging job market.

Sara Pearce, sector strategy manager for CITB-ConstructionSkills South East, said: "Vocational qualifications, such as NVQs, diplomas and apprenticeships, are becoming more and more important for people who want to work in industry, especially construction.

TRAINING DAY: A vocational course could lead you to a career in construction

"They help workers develop the sophisticated skills they need and give hands-on experience that will stand them in good stead throughout their careers.

"With high quality tutors and trainers, construction vocational qualifications are on a par with any academic qualification.

"I would encourage more young people to consider construction as a career and to look at the vocational options available to them.

"The support you receive and the skills you gain are second to none and will open doors into an exciting industry that is vital to the success of the economy."

CITB-ConstructionSkills works on behalf of employers to bring new blood into the building industry.

It is responsible for ensuring the correct training is available for those interested in working in the industry as well as supporting employers to take on new workers, such as apprentices, and works closely with education and industry partners to ensure this happens.

Ms Pearce continued: "One of the most important vocational routes into construction is an apprenticeship, which can offer an invaluable step into a career for young people, whilst being good for business.

"They also help to ensure the industry avoids skills shortages in the future by securing talent now.

"However, if we are to keep attracting the very best recruits we must ensure we work together to support this vital pool of talent, and that quality apprenticeships and job opportunities are available to these young people."

Vocational qualifications can benefit both young people looking to start their careers, as well as adults already working in the industry.

For more information on vocational qualifications or a career in construction you can visit www.bconstructive.co.uk/.

CITB-ConstructionSkills is the Industrial Training Board for the construction industry in Great Britain.

It works to ensure that construction employers have the right skills, in the right place, at the right time by investing funds and providing a wide range of industry-led skills and training solutions.

It is also a partner in ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry, and raises employer engagement in training, providing labour market insights on future skills needs.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

WILMINGTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

We extend a warm welcome to Year 5 pupils and their parents to our

OPEN EVENING

on Thursday 5th July 2012 between 6.30 pm and 9pm to have a tour of the School, talk to students and visit departments

The Head Teacher, Mrs Bolton, will be speaking at 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm.

Tours of the School from 6.30 pm.

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- We are a School which has high expectations for all our students.
- We are a Specialist School in Maths and Computing.
- There is good transport provision.

"Students respond with excitement and enthusiasm to the variety of learning opportunities provided."
(OfSTED 2012)

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School will also be open to parents and their daughters for our Open Evening on October 24th October 2012

ACHIEVING WITH CONFIDENCE

College is getting down to business courses at its redeveloped campus

NORTH West Kent College will be offering business courses at its newly redeveloped Gravesend campus from September.

They will be in conjunction with the business courses already running at the Dartford campus.

The business BTEC Level 3 extended diploma covers marketing, law, finance and human resource management, which give an grounding for career progression in the business world.

The course links with Career Academy UK, which offers mentoring for learners and progression to a six-week paid internship with blue chip companies at Canary Wharf.

Associate director for business and computing, Stephanie Cassidy said: "The qualification that our learners gain is highly recognised by employers and the link to the Career Academy really inspires and motivates our learners."

September will also see the launch of the information and creative technology level 2 BTEC certificate. The course is designed to give the learner a general knowledge of a variety of computing elements. This will cover creative digital animation; software and website development; installation and maintenance of computer hardware; and installation and customisation of software.

The college says it offers a range of business, secretarial and computing courses at both the Dartford and Gravesend campuses, including level 1 and 2 diplomas in administration; the level 3 course which develops skills needed by personal assistants; plus ILEX legal secretarial courses at level 2 and 3.

Computing has courses available in a range of areas from the IT user, IT technician and creative media enabling progression into employment areas including: IT support, networking, development marketing, gaming, software engineering and web development.

Raymond wins a royal scholarship

A CARPENTRY apprentice at Canterbury College has won a prestigious scholarship to improve a stately home recently saved by Prince Charles.

Raymond Alvsvag, 23, from Chartham, is one of only 10 people to be awarded a scholarship on the Building Skill In Craft Apprenticeship Scheme which is run by the Prince's Foundation.

After he completes a Level 3 NVQ in wood cccupations at the college, Raymond will join the Prince's Foundation at Dumfries House in Scotland.

The summer school will see students design and construct a garden feature on the Dumfries Estate, with input from the local community.

The project begins in July and will be completed in November. The rest of Raymond's apprenticeship will see him working on a variety of projects across the UK, learning from master craftsmen in his field.

The judges were impressed by Raymond's application, which included samples of his college work. He said: "I was amazed to get it. Working there is going to be a big honour."

A Prince's Foundation spokesman said: "Craft skills are dying out in the UK and it is vital that we help to preserve them and it is through the enthusiasm and commitment of apprentices such as Raymond that this will be achieved."

Schools & education

Colleges celebrate as top teachers take the plaudits in annual awards

MIDKENT College is celebrating the achievements of two lecturers recognised with distinctions in the 2012 Pearson Teaching Awards.

Steve Casey and Michaela Ward were shortlisted from a record number of nominations.

Nominations are received in the form of online thank-you messages to teachers or lecturers who have made a real difference, with each considered by the Pearson Teaching Awards judging panel.

Steve Casey, 42, from Gillingham, is programme area leader for engineering at MidKent College's Medway Campus and has received a distinction in the category of Further Education Lecturer of the Year (London and the South East).

Michaela Ward, 26, from Rainham, has now relocated to Exeter but was an A-level biology teacher at the Medway Campus at the time of her nomination. She has received a distinction in the category of Outstanding Use of Technology in Education (London and the South East).

MidKent College acting principal Sue McLeod said: "This is fantastic news and we are delighted that both Steve and Michaela have been recognised by the Pearson Teaching Awards panel."

John Bartlett from Bromley College of Further and Higher Education also received a commendation for FE Teacher/Lecturer of the Year.

Junior school racing drivers feel the need for speed in competition

CARS: The winning St Peter's team in the pits

THE magnificent seven battled it out for the title of Thanet's top junior school racing team.

Seven teams were on the starting grid for the seventh annual green power battery car challenge in the grounds of the Chatham and Clarendon Grammar Federation, in Ramsgate.

Competition was fierce as the specially-designed cars powered their way round the circuit in an endurance race, and a skills test.

The lead in the endurance race changed hands several times until St Peter's juniors emerged race winners.

But Drapers Mills School in Margate were the overall winners for best average results in all categories – including the race, skills test, team presentation, design portfolio, greenest car, and the teacher's race.

Competition organiser Lester Edmeades said: "It is great to have a new overall winner this year – Drapers Mills has never taken the top prize and the team are deserved champs.

"Once again the high level of enthusiasm, dedication and support was astounding and all the competitors deserve a huge 'well done'.

"Thanks also go to our excellent team of race marshals, time-keepers and track builders, and Ling Metals for supplying 1,000 tyres to help us create the circuit."

The competition began following the success of Chatham House in the national green power battery car championships over the last decade when they have consistently been in the top 10 in the UK.

A build-a-car project was launched as part of the Chatham House science and technology link with junior schools, and the junior kit car grand prix flourished.

University's chemistry activity day for pupils goes off with a big bang

MORE than 250 school pupils learned about the science behind everyday things such as toothpaste, tap water, putty and glowsticks at a University of Greenwich chemistry activity day.

Chemistry at Work, organised by the university's school of science, saw a team of scientists put on activities for the students aged 14 and 15. The event took place at the university's Medway Campus.

Activities included an explosives demonstration caught on a high-speed camera, a fire power demonstration, identifying poisons, fingerprinting and DNA detection, fitness tests, and magnetic power.

Dr Samantha Booth, the school of science outreach co-ordinator, said: "The day was a great success, and the students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was absolutely brilliant.

"The aim of Chemistry at Work is to highlight the many different career paths for students who choose to pursue science at A-level. A lot of the students said they didn't realise what opportunities there were, and that it had opened doors for them."

The schools taking part were Hartsdown Technology College, Margate; Northfleet School for Girls; The Judd School, Tonbridge; St George's CofE Foundation School, Broadstairs; Dover Grammar School for Boys; Rainham School for Girls; and Crowns Wood College, Eltham.

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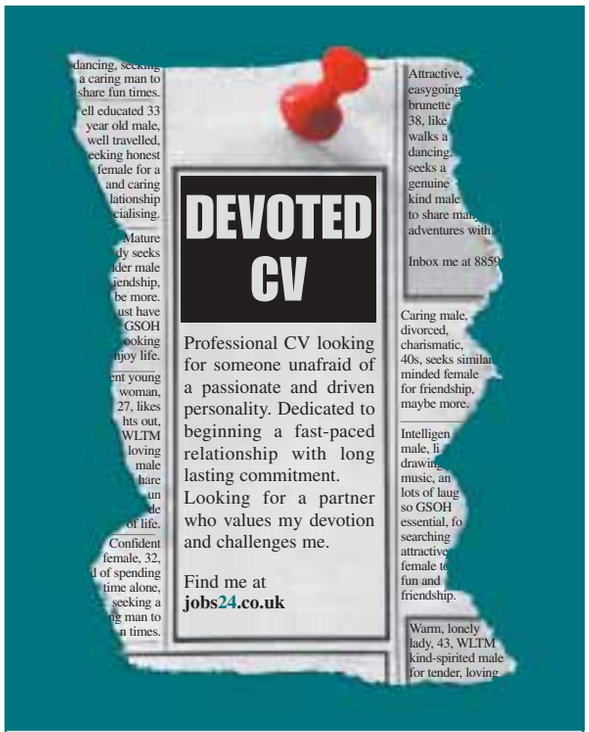

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If you are interested in either of the above vacancies please send your CV and covering letter to
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Exciting opportunities to join the team at Thanet College

We wish to appoint from September 2012:

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Construction - (Brickwork specialism)
Early Years
Sport
Vehicle Automotive (0.5 FTE)

Salary scale - £25,589 - £30,205 dependent on experience and qualifications

Other

Employment Liaison Officer for Technology
Salary scale - £19,659 - £23,040 dependent on experience and qualifications

Benefits include contributory pension scheme, a generous holiday entitlement and a comprehensive range of staff benefits

THANET COLLEGE

Visit our website at www.thanet.ac.uk

Thanet College is a dynamic and forward thinking college which is changing fast. We have an ambitious agenda and are looking for energetic and focussed people to join our talented team in the pursuit of even higher standards and all round excellence.

With a bold long-term vision, the College is very much at the heart of economic and social change in East Kent. We have made a significant start on our journey towards achieving Outstanding status and have focussed hard on our curriculum, working with our partners and Canterbury Christ Church University to create a distinctive technical and vocational offer which responds to the skills and training needs of our local community.

With beautiful beaches, close to the historic City of Canterbury, Broadstairs, in Thanet is a great place to live and work. In September 2012 the College looks forward to launching its new name and branding which will reflect the transformational changes that are taking place. So if you are ready for a challenging but rewarding role and would like to become part of our dedicated and enthusiastic team we look forward to hearing from you.

For further information about us and an application form please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk or contact HR. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 4th July 2012.

Our mission is to raise aspirations, develop skill and delivery quality.

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Learning Support Assistant
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28.5 hours a week (5 days)
Term time only - 39 wks per year (includes Staff Development Days)
Kent Range 3 (£14,241.00 to £16,144.00 pa) Pro rata to £8,204.50 - £9,300.86 pa
Plus an additional allowance of £6.50 per day when used in the PD Department (Non-Pensionable)

A friendly and adaptable person is required to work with an identified subject area for learning support. In addition, you would provide relief cover for the PD Department in the event of absence, to proactively support students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. You will be required to undertake moving and handling training, and it would be an advantage to have an interest in, or experience of, working with physically disabled students and a good level of numeracy and literacy (Level 2 or equivalent) is essential.

To apply please submit with your application to Kay McGowan, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 3rd July 2012 (10.00 am)
Interviews: Week Commencing 9th July 2012

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.
Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

15 June 2012

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer/Course Leader in Health Care - Fixed Term Contract — Ref: P0440

Salary: £26,336 - £34,505 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week
Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint an experienced candidate to deliver Health Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The successful applicant would assume responsibility for co-ordinating the Access Health Care pathway, and a Psychology specialism and experience/knowledge of the Health Care sector. Applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Animal Care, Part-time, Fixed Term Maternity Cover — Ref: M0420

Salary: £17,753 - £34,505 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
30 hours per week
Medway Campus

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Animal Care Department. They will contribute to the delivery and success of courses from Entry to Level 3, using the excellent facilities available. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Social Science, Part-time, Fixed Term Maternity Cover — Ref: M0431

Salary: £17,753 - £34,505 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week
Medway Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Social Science lecturer to join our Access to Higher Education team. They will need to have experience of teaching both Psychology and Sociology, preferably to adult learners. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Plumbing — Ref: P0659

Salary: £26,336 - £34,505 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic, competent and confident team-player to teach, assess, and participate in the development of Plumbing courses in the Faculty of Construction and Engineering, including theory and practical from Entry to Advanced levels. Applicants must have good industrial experience, be qualified at least to Level 3 with good verbal and written communication skills and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. If you meet these requirements and have a passion to teach and inspire both young and mature students to meet the needs of industry we would welcome your application.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Beauty Therapy — Ref: SESS

Hourly rate £23.44 - £27.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners for the new course in Body Art, starting in September 2012, and leading to the Diploma in Hair and Media Make-up at Level 2. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification, have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification, and have Beauty Make-up and Body Art practical experience. Recent industry experience would be advantageous

ESF Special Projects Co-ordinator/Sales, Part-Time, Fixed Term Contract — P0597

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience
18.5 hours per week Medway Campus

The Business Development Department is looking for an exceptional candidate to support specific functions within the BDU and the Employer Engagement agenda. Duties will include co-ordinating and monitoring special projects and engaging with businesses to generate participation against contract volumes. The successful candidate will have experience of LSC funding schemes, excellent ICT skills and experience within a similar role.

Personal Tutor — Ref: P0183

£20,724 - £26,702 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week
Maidstone Campus

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and hold or be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Closing date: Thursday 12 July 2012 at 12 noon

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

MidKent College - a great place to work and learn

Teaching & Learning Managers

Come and join the team of one of the largest and most successful further and higher education colleges in the South East.

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- Plumbing
- Business
- IT, Creative Arts and ESOL
- Learning Support
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MidKent College has achieved its best ever success rates and is looking for talented, self-motivated teaching professionals with a strong desire to take us to the next level.

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Tel: 01634 383706 • Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

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MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Margate)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Specialist interest in Bariatric nursing desirable
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:-
Carolyn Flegg - Senior Staff Nurse on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

Staff Nurse Outpatients (Ashford)

Part-time position available 20 hrs per week
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:-
Mary Guarnieri – Matron on 01843 234252

Closing date for all applications - 9th July 2012

For job description and application form please contact:-

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road
Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

MidKent College - a great place to work and learn

Teaching & Learning Managers

Come and join the team of one of the largest and most successful further and higher education colleges in the South East.

With state-of-the-art campuses in Medway and Maidstone and strong financial health, we are passionate about teaching, learning and the development of our staff.

We are now on the hunt for a new team of Teaching & Learning managers to drive forward a flexible, engaging and enterprising curriculum in the following areas:

- Hospitality, Travel and Tourism
- Information Technology and Computing
- Engineering
- Construction Crafts
- Building Services

MidKent College has achieved its best ever success rates and is looking for talented, self-motivated teaching professionals with a strong desire to take us to the next level.

Successful applicants will earn a basic salary of £38,169 and can look forward to 35 days annual leave, eligibility to join the teachers' pension scheme and other benefits.

So, think you're up to the job? Great – contact the College to request an application pack.
Closing date: Friday 6 July

Tel: 01634 383706 • Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Quality Co-ordinator

MidKent College is also seeking to appoint a Quality Co-ordinator to aid the monitoring and development of its quality improvement procedures and initiatives.

The successful applicant will work closely with faculty heads and teaching and support staff across the College, and also act as the quality nominee for awarding bodies.

Salary: £24,842 to £31,516 dependent on qualifications and experience.

Closing date: Friday 6 July

Tel: 01634 383706 • Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

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MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Exciting opportunities to join the team at Thanet College

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

CREATIVE ARTS TECHNICIAN

To provide technical support to staff and students, to supervise students and to demonstrate equipment and facilities to students within the Creative Arts Department.
Salary scale: £15,980 - £17,791 for 37 hours per week all year

Benefits include: Contributory pension scheme, 23 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

Closing date: Wednesday 11th July 2012
Interview Date: Monday 23rd July 2012

COMMERCIAL HAIR AND BEAUTY/RESTAURANT RECEPTIONIST

(Two positions available)

To ensure the smooth and professional day to day running of the commercial Salon and Restaurant.

Salary Scale: £7,427 - £7,990 for 18.5 hours per week to include Saturday work, all year

Closing date: Wednesday 11th July 2012
Interview Date: Wednesday 25th July 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

Visit our website at www.thanet.ac.uk

PLANNING

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS)

(FOLKESTONE SEA FRONT AND THE STADE) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to implement new parking restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Marine Crescent; Marine Parade; Marine Terrace; Lower Sandgate Road; Harbour Approach Road; Tontine Street; Fish Market; East Street; The Stade; Mill Bay.

The Order will also consolidate the existing restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Harbour Street; Beach Street; Radnor Street

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone C), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone C" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 23rd July 2012 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS)

(FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND THE BAYLE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to implement new parking restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Bouverie Place; Bouverie Road West; Bouverie Square; Cheriton Place; Christ Church Road; Clifton Gardens; Grace Hill; Langhorne Gardens; Longford Terrace; Longford Way; Manor Road; Pound Way; Sandgate Road; Shakespeare Terrace; Shellons Street; The Bayle; The Leas; The Parade; West Cliff Gardens; West Terrace.

The Order also proposes to consolidate the existing restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Bayle Street; Church Street; Dover Road, from its junction with Tontine Street to Grace Hill; Foresters Way; Gloucester Place; Middelburg Square; Oxford Terrace; Payers Park; Pleydell Gardens; Priory Gardens; Rendezvous Street; St Eanswythe's Way; The Old High Street.

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone A), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone A" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 23rd July 2012 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Northfleet School for Girls

CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Cover Supervisor

33.75 hours per week - Term Time Only
Kent Scheme Grade 5 - £12,924 to £14,352 p.a.
(£14,352 - 16,793 fte)

Our Cover Co-Ordinator and Cover Supervisors work in the classroom to ensure continuity of teaching for students providing supervision for absent teaching staff, involving the facilitation of learning to all Key Stages of the school in a safe and secure learning environment. They also undertake other non-teaching duties as directed, including supervision of students during non-lesson times.

Learning Support Assistant

31.25 hours per week -Term Time only
Kent Scheme Grade 4 - £11,392 to £12,084 p.a.
(£15,894 - £16,793 fte)

An opportunity for a Learning Support Assistant with a flexible and innovative approach to supporting pupils who have identified additional needs under the guidance of our Inclusion Manager. The role involves working with both class teachers and some one-to-one working directly with students.

A sense of humour and strong interpersonal skills are imperative to both positions.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Personnel at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicants will be subject to a full CRB check.
Closing date for applicants: 30 June 2012

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01255/LBC **Old Manor House Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Installation of heating and domestic hot water system (LB)

12/01766/LBC **George & Dragon Five Oak Green Road, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Upgrading of doors to provide 30 minute fire rating, installation of fire alarm detection system and emergency lighting, upgrading of basement ceiling (LB)

12/01764/HOUSE **Fern Cottage High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Loft conversion including two dormers to front, one dormer and one rooflight to rear; single storey rear extension (CA) (LB)

12/01780/HOUSE **Rose Bank Waterloo Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Loft conversion incorporating dormer windows to rear elevation, single window to side elevation and roof lights to front elevation. Single storey extension to side elevation with part pitched roof and part flat roof (CA)

12/01648/LBC **Berry & Berry 11 Church Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement timber window to rear elevation and fixing of linings to internal face of wall (LB)

12/01634/HOUSE **Smugley Barn Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Single storey lean to extension to north elevation (LB)

12/01772/HOUSE **Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Demolish existing garage and construct garage with pitched roof incorporating bedroom accessed from half landing in tower (LB)

12/01776/LBC **Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolish existing garage and construct garage with pitched roof incorporating bedroom accessed from half landing in tower (LB)

12/01714/HOUSE **The Studio Grove Mills, Hawkhurst**
- Single storey front extension and fenestration alterations (revisions to TW/11/03729 previously approved) (LB) (CA)

12/01761/LBC **Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: First floor internal alterations comprising removal of built in cupboards to kitchen and bathroom, construction of lobby to link bedroom to bathroom, two openings to be formed in existing walls, provision of single door (LB)

12/01688/HOUSE **1 Sion Walk Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Replacement of second storey windows at front and rear with new frames, architraves and cills in upvc (Retrospective) (LB) (CA)

12/01781/OUTMJ **OS Plot 6447 Adjacent Dormers 12 Bayham Road, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Outline (Access not reserved) - Erection of 45 dwellings including associated access and parking, utilities and service infrastructure, amenity space, open space and landscaping (MAJOR)

12/01713/HOUSE **Appletree Cottage Camden Park, Park**
- Removal of Condition 6 of TW/12/00614 for Renovation of existing property - Non-compliance with requirement for non-openable, obscure glass windows for two first floor windows on east elevation (CA) (LB)

12/01669/HOUSE **Bank House Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Oak framed three bay building with log store to replace existing garage and storage building (CA) (LB)

12/01670/CAC **Bank House Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of garage and storage building (CA)

12/01709/HOUSE **Driftwood Rye Road, Sandhurst**
- Front and rear extensions and detached two bay garage (LB)

12/01715/LBC **Lampington Cottage The Green, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of existing gates, replacement of part existing boundary fence and installation of satellite receiver dish on chimney (LB)

12/01677/HOUSE **58 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Ground floor side and rear extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 30 June 2012

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0527/SH+ - 106 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LE - Demolition of existing garages and erection of two, two storey dwellings with associated bin, cycle storage and parking (re-submission of Y11/0490/SH).

Y12/0536/SH - Enbrook Park Sandgate High Street Sandgate Kent - 50% reduction of two limbs of an Ash tree subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 1975.

Y12/0483/SH# - 1 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AJ - Listed building consent for the demolition and rebuild of a chimney

Y12/0560/SH+ - 26 Prospect Road Hythe Kent CT21 5JW - Display of one externally illuminated fascia sign and one temporary banner sign.

Y12/0542/SH# - Holly House Sussex Road New Romney Kent TN28 8HL - Various pruning works to two Holm Oak trees, subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2004

Y12/0528/SH+ - 106 High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LE - Conservation area consent for demolition of existing garages.

Y12/0559/SH - 31 Stade Street Hythe Kent CT21 6DA - Felling of a Cherry tree situated within a conservation area

Y12/0549/SH# - The Paddock 80 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of two semi-independent living units

Y12/0513/SH# - Sycamore Farm Millbank Lane Old Romney Kent TN29 9SY - Retrospective application for the continued use of redundant farm buildings (Units 1-10 and 12) as light industrial (Class B1), general industrial (Class B2), and storage/distribution (Class B8).

Y12/0499/SH - Marlborough Court 29 - 31 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2PN - Installation of replacement uPVC windows and panels to communal areas on the north elevation.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SE/0205/2012 - Proposed development at Ide Hill CE Primary School, Sundridge Road, Ide Hill, Sevenoaks, TN14 6JT.

The Governors of Ide Hill CE Primary School are applying to Kent County Council for planning permission to demolish a mobile classroom and rear extension to school building including existing toilets, changing rooms, corridor and store room, and construct a new extension comprising a new multi-purpose hall, kitchenette and hall store, toilets, plus a new classroom and link corridor. The proposed development is within the Ide Hill Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building. The proposed development also affects the setting of a public right of way.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 1st July 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0751/S - 21, ROUNDEL WAY, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9TW - Change of use of land from agriculture to residential garden (resubmission of MA/11/0842). **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0798/S - FAIRBOURNE MANOR, FAIRBOURNE LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1LN - An application for planning permission for the conversion of the barn into a dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0824/S - THE HAWTHORNS, LEEDS ROAD, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3JN - Change of use of property from nursing home to single dwelling. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0846/N - 4, MILL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XH - Change of use of building to provide 2No. duplex flats and associated operational development including alterations to the Mill Street frontage; demolition of part of the rear of the building; erection of decking and fencing to rear; and introduction of new openings to rear. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0859/S - ELM COTTAGE, OLD LOOSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BH - Replacement of all window frames and weatherboarding to south elevation. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0929/N - GARDNERS COTTAGE, CHILSTON PARK, BOUGHTON ROAD, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BE - Erection of a detached garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0965/N - 31/32 HOLLINGWORTH COURT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - Change of use from office to gym/fitness centre. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0966/N - 31/32 HOLLINGWORTH COURT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - Listed building consent for internal alterations to building. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0980/S - LAND WEST OF, BURIAL GROUND LANE, TOVIL, KENT - The development of 27 houses together with raising of land levels, new access and access road, parking, car barns and associated landscaping and footpath links. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/12/0981/N - PARK BARN FARM HOUSE, PARK BARN ROAD, BROOMFIELD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PN - Construction of a portable telescopic glazed swimming pool enclosure. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0982/N - PARK BARN FARM HOUSE, PARK BARN ROAD, BROOMFIELD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PN - Listed building consent for the construction of a portable telescopic glazed swimming pool enclosure. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0986/N, S - LAND REAR OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline application for residential development for up to 112 dwellings with associated development, including demolition of existing dwellings/police building in Weald Close with all matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0987/S - LAND TO REAR OF KENT POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL OFF, ST SAVIOURS ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9DW - Outline application for residential development for up to 90 dwellings with associated development with all matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/0999/N - 34, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1JH - Installation of shopfront and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1051/S - LAND SOUTH OF, WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Erection of 18 flats and 51 houses together with 225m² of community/commercial space. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1052/S - LAND NORTH & SOUTH OF, WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline application for residential development and new community and commercial facilities with all matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th July 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 1st July 2012

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010 NOTICE OF VARIATION OF CHARGES

The Shepway District Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") in exercise of their powers under section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State (The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders) (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and of all other enabling powers hereby gives notice that the charges to be paid in connection with hourly tariffs and season tickets at off-street parking places will, on 23rd July, 2012, be varied as follows -

			Charges apply 8am - 8pm unless otherwise indicated
Car Park		Details of the charges on the date this notice is given	Details of the charges that are to be payable when the notice comes into force on 23/07/2012
LONG TERM			
Hythe:	Up to 90 minutes	FREE	N/A
	Thereafter the following charges shall apply		
Military Road	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	£1.20
	Up to 2 hours	£2.30	£2.30
	Up to 3 hours	£3.40	£3.40
	Up to 4 hours	£4.50	£4.50
	Up to 5 hours	£5.70	£5.70
	Up to 6 hours	£6.70	£6.70
	Up to 12 hours	£7.90	£7.90

A copy of the Notice of Tariff Changes may be inspected at the District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Notice or of any of its provisions on the ground that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made there under has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice was published, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the Notice or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853380) during normal office hours.

A. Lague
Highways Engineer, On behalf of B. Porter, Head of Service for Health and Housing
Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00649/FUL: Trottes House, 19 Pound Lane, Canterbury CT1 2BZ Conservation rooflights to south elevation. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Joy** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00666/FUL: Tankerton Slopes, Whitstable Erection of 13 beach huts. **Applicant: Mr R Griffiths** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00675/FUL: The Whitstable Laundrette, 2-4 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Installation of photo voltaic solar panels on single-storey element to rear of building. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr Wood** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00777/ADV: 15 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AF Externally illuminated fascia and hanging sign and vertical sign attached to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr M Dari** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00833/FUL: Elbridge Hill House, Elbridge Hill, Littlebourne Erection of garden room/greenhouse and 3.5 metres high wall. **Applicant: Dr Holdstock** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00846/FUL: 21 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LF Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr N Parry** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00850/FUL: 18 West Beach, Whitstable, CT5 1EG Alterations to north-western elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr R Westbrook** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00882/FUL: Land on north side of St Radigund's Street between 23 Pound Lane and the River Stour, Canterbury Erection of a timber store room/building with verandah and photo voltaic panels on the roof for a temporary period. **Applicant: Moorespace Architects** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00932/FUL: Coach House, 55 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JY Conversion of coach house to two flats. **Applicant: Pilgrims Hospice** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00939/LUE: Valhalla, North Stream, Marshside, Chislet, CT3 4EE Certificate of lawfulness of existing use of building for residential purposes. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Phillpott** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00947/FUL: 37 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HQ Single-storey rear extension, alterations to kitchen and conversion to basement to form a utility. **Applicant: Mr Fred Whitemore** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00962/ADV: 34-36 Sea Street, Herne Bay, CT6 8SP Erection of one totem sign. **Applicant: Tesco Stores Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00992/FUL: 16 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling with terrace over. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Nation** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00993/FUL: 8 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT1 3LJ Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Wood** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01000/ADV: 44-48 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BQ Replacement signage including illumination. **Applicant: Musgrave Retail Partners GB** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01003/FUL: Knaves Ash Cottage, Hoath Road, Hoath, CT3 4JR Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr J Williams** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01008/FUL: St Vincent, 4 Jubilee Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TP Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Williamson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01011/ADV: 12 The Parade, Canterbury, CT1 2SG Proposed fascia and projecting signs. **Applicant: Lush Retail Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01019/ADV: 43-45 St George's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UP Installation of internally illuminated fascia signs to front and side elevations (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Odeon Cinemas Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01032/FUL: Nuestro Hogar, Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne CT4 5ED Replacement of single-storey extension roof. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Fagg** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01033/ADV: Canterbury Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JQ Installation of internally illuminated sign above public entrance. **Applicant: Kent Police** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01034/LB: 92B Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LU Installation of five slate roof vents and internal works associated with installation of replacement ventilation system. **Applicant: Mr J Barton** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01035/TPO: The Old Rectory, The List, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RX Re-pollard Willow T1 and Poplar T2, cutting back to previous pollard points. (TPO No 8 1988). **Applicant: Mrs Wright** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01036/FUL: 57 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JN Erection of single-storey extension to rear elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Beaumont** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01038/FUL: 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Erection of porch to front and cladding of building. **Applicant: Mr M Gelgyn** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01052/FUL: Sweech Farm, Herne Bay Road, Sturry Re-instatement of barn. **Applicant: Mr H Hilton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01055/ADV: 24 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TH Installation of replacement non-illuminated fascia sign and installation of banner sign. **Applicant: Supergroup** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01056/TAM: Land on highway verge at St Stephen's Hill, opposite Darwin College, Canterbury, CT2 7AX Installation of replacement 15m high monopole and associated equipment cabinet. **Applicant: Telefonica UK Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01058/FUL: Post Office House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Erection of two-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Richard and Elli Baly** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01062/FUL: Marine Parade, Whitstable Erection of four beach huts. **Applicant: Mr R Griffiths** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01063/LB: 37 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HQ Single-storey rear extension, alterations to kitchen and conversion to basement to form a utility. **Applicant: Mr F Whitemore** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01077/LB: Sweech Farm, Herne Bay Road, Sturry Re-instatement of barn (replacement listed building consent reference CAL/08/0100/STU. **Applicant: Mr H Hilton** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01081/LB: Post Office House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Erection of two-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Richard and Elli Baly** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01088/LB: Trottes House, 19 Pound Lane, Canterbury CT1 2BZ Conservation rooflights to south elevation. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Joy** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 23 July 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 29 June 2012

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PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH DR1 IN THE PARISH OF STONE

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH DR1) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath DR1, from its junction with Claire Causeway / Crossways Boulevard to Thames Street, from the 16th July 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because construction works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is to continue east along Crossways Boulevard, and then north for approximately 80 metres along Thames Street to re-join DR1 at this point, and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Mrs Olivia Bonham

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT347 (PART) AT HORSMONDEN) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 12 June 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WT347, which commences at NGR TQ 7076 3940 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in a easterly direction for 125.0 metres and then in a south-south-easterly direction for 113.0 metres (totalling 238 metres) to its connection with Brick Kiln Lane (U1743) at NGR TQ 7094 3930 (point B) (between the points A-B on the Order plan); and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WT347 with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a south-easterly direction for 86.0 metres and then in a east-south-easterly direction for 130.0 metres (totalling 216 metres) to the aforementioned point B (between the points A-B on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 696871) (email: maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk) not later than 30 July 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC174 (PART) HAWKHURST) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 21 June 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WC174 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC174 at NGR TQ 7615 3303 (Point A) and runs in a west south westerly direction for 46 metres, south south easterly for 63 metres, easterly for 23 metres, south south easterly for 26 metres, thence east south easterly through south south easterly for 166 metres to its connection with Potter's Lane at NGR TQ 7628 3282 (Point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath WC174 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WC174 at NGR TQ 7615 3303 (Point A) and runs in an east south easterly direction for 95 metres to NR TQ 7623 3298 (Point C), southerly for 8 metres to NGR TQ 7624 3297 (Point D), east south easterly for 37 metres to NGR TQ 7627 3296 (Point E), southerly through south easterly for 116 metres to NGR TQ 7629 3285 (Point F), south westerly for 11 metres to NGR TQ 7628 3284 (Point G), thence south south easterly for 26 metres to a new connection with Potter's Lane at NGR TQ 7629 3282 (Point H), 12.5 metres from the existing connection at NGR TQ 7628 3282 (Point B). There will be pedestrian gates at NGR TQ 7627 3296 (Point E) and NGR TQ 7629 3285 (Point F) which will conform to BS 5709:2006. Please see Part II of the Order Schedule for details of the width.

All directions are general, all distances are approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 19 July 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 1 July 2012, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 1st July 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

BLACKWALL ROAD NORTH, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road North, Ashford, on or after 7 July 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to through traffic for its entire length.

Access for residents will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

The alternative route is via A2070 Kennington Road and Blackwall

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Aldington, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

Works are planned within the hours 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed from the bridges southwards to the junction with Roman Road.

The alternative route is via Roman Road, Goldwell Lane, Evegate Road, Station Road and A20 Hythe Road.

TILDEN CHAPEL LANE, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay a high voltage cable in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tilden Chapel Lane, Smarden, on or after 3 July 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Smarden Road / The Cut.

The alternative route is via The Cut, Biddenden Road, Bethersden Road and Luckhurst Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

LOUNGE ON THE FARM, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during the 'Lounge On The Farm' Music Festival, Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic and pedestrians, as detailed below.

The restrictions will take effect from 8.00 am Thursday 5th July until midday on Monday 9th July 2012 inclusive.

ROAD CLOSURE

MERTON LANE, CANTERBURY will be closed between the junctions with B2068 Nackington Road and Stuppington Lane.

There will be managed access into and out of Merton Lane for those involved in or attending the 'Lounge on the Farm' event, and for residents and businesses within the closed section of road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2068 Nackington Road, Old Dover Road, Ethelbert Road, South Canterbury Road and Stuppington Lane.

30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

B2068 NACKINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY - a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph will be imposed between the junction with Bridge Road and the existing 30 mph / 40 mph speed limit sign, to the south of the junction with Langton Lane

NO WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on the sections of road defined below (except for emergency services), when indicated by 'No Waiting' cones on site.

B2068 NACKINGTON ROAD - from the junction with Bridge Road to the existing double yellow lines to south of the junction with Langton Lane.

MERTON LANE NORTH - from the junction with Nackington Road for a distance of 250 metres, to the entrance to the Rugby Club.

CHURCH LANE - from the junction with Nackington Road, for its entire length.

FOOTPATH CLOSURES

The use of sections of various footpaths in the vicinity of Merton Farm will be prohibited as detailed below, and indicated by signage on site.

CB348 / CC66A - the Public Footpath between Nackington Road and Merton Lane will be closed for its entire length.

CC65 - the Public Footpath from Nackington Road, along Merton Lane through Merton Farm (TR 149 549) will be closed for its entire length.

CB358 - the Bridleway will be closed from Merton Farm (TR 149 549) to the junction with Footpath CB357

VARIOUS ROADS, WHITSTABLE & HERNE BAY (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriagway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in Whitstable & Herne Bay, as shown below.

The Order takes effect on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

SADDLETON ROAD and SYDNEY ROAD, WHITSTABLE will be closed on 16 and 17 July 2012, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

Only one of the roads will be closed at any one time.

Saddleton Road - closed between Grimshill Road and Sydney Road

Sydney Road - closed between Saddleton Road and Grimshill Road.

Local diversions will be in place, dependant on the location of the works.

CHARLES STREET, HERNE BAY will be closed on 18 July 2012

The closure is for its entire length

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, High Street, Beach Street, Mortimer Street and William Street

The side roads joining Charles Street will be closed at their junctions with Charles Street as the works progress.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Little Charles Street, Cooper's Hill, North Street, Chapel Street and East Street will be suspended to allow access, when the relevant signs are amended.

BROOMFIELD ROAD, HERNE and BROOMFIELD will be closed on 20 July 2012

The closure is between the junctions with Mill Lane and Margate Road

The alternative route is via Margate Road, Hunters Forstall Road and Mill Lane

HIGHWAYS - Dartford and in District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991 (SECTION 16A)

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads in Dartford, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 22nd July 2012; the event is planned to last 1 day between 09.00hrs - 12.00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name: Lowfield Street, Dartford
Extent: Cranford Road to Parsonage Lane
Diversion: No diversion required Traffic management Vehicle slow moving behind runners, delays up to 10 minutes no closure required

Road name: Princes Road, Dartford
Extent: Junction of Lowfield Street
Diversion: Traffic stopped for 10 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road name: Parsonage Lane, Hawley/Darenth
Extent: Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Roman Villa Road.
Diversion: Signed Diversion route from Parsonage Lane roundabout to Darenth Hill roundabout (and vice versa) via Hawley Road, Princes Road and Green St Green Rd and the reverse

Road name: Darenth Hill, Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions Roman Villa Road and Green Street Green Road.
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Roman Villa Road, Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Diversion: A225 Hawley Road and A225 Princes Road

Road name: Rabbits Road, South Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road
Diversion: Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margarets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: Gills Road, South Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Wilson Lane, South Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Canada Farm Road, South Darenth closed from 09:10 to 11:00
Extent: Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: Valley Road, Fawkham Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth closed from 09:20 to 11:00 ONE WAY from Homesdale Hill
Extent: To B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth from 09:45 to 11:00
Extent: closed at its junction with B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road Names: Lady wood Road, Hill Rise, Bennett Way and Wood Lane from 09:50 to 11:00
Extent: closed at its junction with B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road name: Gore Road
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to cross the Road to the left hand side pavement.

Road Names: Oakwood Close from 10:00 to 11:30
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road Names: Pilgrims Way from 10:00 to 11:30
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road Names: Park Road from 10:00 to 11:30
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

Road Names: Darenth Road and Darenth Road fast track from 10:00 to 12:00
Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for periods up to 5 minutes to allow runners to pass

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Dartford Half Marathon

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

BOYES LANE, GOODNESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 1 day, beyween 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Saddlers Hill and Cave Lane.

The alternative route is via Cave Lane, Buckland Lane and Catsole Hill.

CASTLE STREET AND WOOLCOMBER STREET, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Street and Woolcomber Street, Dover, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 5 nights, as described below.

Closures will be between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am each night, with roads re-opened outside these hours.

The roads will be closed on alternate nights, as follows.

A256 WOOLCOMBER STREET will be closed on 2 July 2012

CASTLE STREET will be closed on 3 July 2012

A256 WOOLCOMBER STREET will be closed on 4 July 2012

CASTLE STREET will be closed on 5 July 2012

A256 WOOLCOMBER STREET may need to be closed on 6 July 2012

There will be limited managed access for residents and businesses when safe to allow this, but delays are likely.

The alternative route for the **Castle Street** closure is via A256 Woolcomber Street, A20 Townwall Street and York Street.

The alternative route for the **Woolcomber Street** closure is via A258 Castle Hill Road, A2 Jubilee Way and A20 Townwall Street.

LEVEL CROSSINGS, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various level crossings in Sandwich, as shown below.

ASH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, ASH ROAD, SANDWICH will be closed from 22 July at 2.00 am through until 23 July 2012 at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via Ash Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258 Deal Road, New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street (plus High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse) and Ash Road

SANDWICH LEVEL CROSSING, NEW STREET, SANDWICH will be closed in on Tuesday 24 July 2012 from 0.01 am (1 minute past midnight) until 5.00 am

The alternative route is via New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street (plus High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse), Ash Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258 Deal Road and New Street.

WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH will be closed on Wednesday 25 July 2012 between 0.20 am until 5.15 am.

The alternative route is via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street, Cattle Market and Moat Sole (plus Harnett Street, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse).

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED BY THE LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ACT 2006)

To allow temporary modifications to be carried out to a road junction in connection with holding an Olympic Event, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, as shown below.

The planned closures are on Monday 16 July and Friday 20 July 2012.

The road will be closed at the junction with the A20 Townwall Street.

The alternative route is via Townwall Street and Wellesley Road.

RIPPLE ROAD, RIPPLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ripple Road, Ripple, on or after 9 July 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A258 Dover Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

The alternative route is via Ripple Road, Ringwould Road, Sutton Lane, Front Street, A258 Dover Road.

SHELVIN FARM ROAD, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shelvin Farm Road, Denton, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Shelvin Lane and Side Hills.

The alternative route is via Shelvin Lane, A260 Canterbury Road and Side Hills.

HIGHWAYS - District of Gravesham

WHITE POST LANE, COBHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of To lay High Voltage cable , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Post Lane, Cobham , on or after 18 July 2012 for up to 13 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from its junction with Round Street and Sallows Shaw.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Round Street and Sallows Shaw.

The alternative route is via Round Street, Sole Street, Camer Road, Green Lane, Wrotham Road and Nurstead Church Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst, on or after 19 July 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with from Pinnock Lane to Pristling Lane.

The alternative route is via Pristling Lane, Five Oak Lane.

HOWLAND ROAD, MARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Howland Road, Marden, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Weavers Cottage.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Battle Lane and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Battle Lane, St Ann's Green Lane, B2079 Maidstone Road.

LENHAM ROAD, BOUGHTON MALHERBE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay a high voltage cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lenham Road, Boughton Malherbe, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Southernden Road and Crumps Lane.

The alternative route is via Southernden Road, Barham's Mill Road, Coldbridge Lane, Headcorn Road.

TESTON LANE, TESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works by Network Rail, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Teston Lane, Teston, on or after 6 July 2012 for up to 1 night between 23.00hrs and 04.00hrs and between 22:00hrs on the 13 July 2012 until 06:00hrs on the 23 July 2012 or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A26 Tonbridge Road to Teston Country Park.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Farleigh Lane, Station Road, B2010 Lower Road, Teston Lane.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 16A

One Mile Run - 20th July 2012

Kent County Council gives Notice that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is being held on the highway. Kent County Council intends to make an Order; the effect will be to temporarily prohibit the use of Vehicles travelling on:-

Station Road - from Week Street to St Faiths Street

St Faiths Street

Fairmeadow - south inside lane

High Street

The Order will become effective on 20th July 2012. The restrictions/prohibitions specified in this notice will apply only during such times and to such extent as indicated by traffic signs in operation.

Nothing in the Order will apply to:

- Any Vehicle being used for Ambulance purposes, Coastguard/RNLI, Fire Brigade or Police services.
- Anything done by a Statutory Undertaker vehicle in connection with an emergency repair.
- Anything done with the permission or at the direction of a KCC traffic Marshall, Event Organisers or a Police Constable in Uniform.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

PILGRIMS WAY EAST, OTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to the installation of a new High Voltage cable , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way East, Otford , on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed along Pilgrims Way East .

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Beechy Lees Road and Rowdow Lane.

The alternative route is via Station Road, Sevenoaks Road, Otford Road, Seal Road, School Lane and Childsbridge Lane.

PUDDLELOCK LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to water mains, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Puddlelock Lane, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for the whole length.

There will be no access for through traffic from the junction of Mapleton Road to the Junction of Toys Hill.

The alternative route is via Toys Hill, Pootings Road, Mapleton Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

RECTORY LANE, SALTWOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Saltwood, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 2 days, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the stables.

There is no alternative route, as the road is a cul-de-sac. Every effort will be made to maintain access, but there may be times when this is not possible.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

B2040 LOVE LANE & WHITSTABLE ROAD, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the B2040 Love Lane & Whitstable Road, Faversham, on or after 6 July 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 8.00 pm and 1.00 am.

The road will be closed at the junction with Graveney Road.

There will be no access for through traffic from the A2 or A299 into Faversham using this route.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, Western Link, Bysing Wood Road, Dark Hill, West Street, B2040 North Lane, Conduit Street, Court Street, Crescent Road, East Street and Whitstable Road.

Traffic from Graveney Road should use the A299 Thanet Way to reach A2 London Road before joining the above route.

NORTON ROAD, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to overhead cables to restore phone services, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton & Buckland, on or after 16 July 2012 for up to 5 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Provender Lane and Lewson Street Road.

The alternative route is via Tickham Lane, Nouds Lane, Nouds Road, A2 London Road, and Norton Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Tunbridge Wells

PETTERIDGE LANE, BRENCHLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Petteridge Lane, Brenchley, on or after 19 July 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 41 to 44.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Cryals Road and Tibbs Court Lane.

The alternative route is via Petteridge Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, A21 Hastings Road, Cryals Road, Petteridge Lane.

ROMFORD ROAD & WOODSIDE ROAD, PEMBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Romford Road & Woodside Road, Pembury, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside The Priory Care Home.

The alternative route for Romford Road westbound is via B2160 Maidstone Road, A21 Hastings Road, A264 Pembury Road, A228 Maidstone Road, High Street, Hastings Road, Henwood Green Road, for eastbound via Henwood Green Road, A21 Hastings Road, B2160 Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane, Romford Road. The alternative route for Woodside Road is via Henwood Green Road, Romford Road.

SANDHURST ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works to the railway bridge, brickwork and vegetation clearance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandhurst Road, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 2 July 2012 for up to 5 nights between 21:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Upper Grosvenor Road, Grosvenor Bridge, Quarry Road, Garden Road, Sandrock Road, A264 Pembury Road, Sandhurst Road.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 1st July 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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(T&C's below)

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

BUBBLY fun loving single mum, 47, seeks Knight in shining armour, 38-55 to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392951**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

JACQ 45, slim, natural blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks confident guy for company/friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391564**

KAREN 38 slim and attractive seeking confident professional for companionship, status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392407**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

NATALIE professional 30's female, no ties, everything a classy blonde should be, looking for special times with male up to 65yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391871**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143**

MONIQUE black, looking for N/S gentleman, 50-60 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391220**

SUSAN very pretty curvy blue eyed girlie girl, WLTM genuine male seeking a classy blonde for a mutually loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391085**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

YOUTHFUL 52yr old female, old fashioned, seeks N/S male, 52-56 to have a talk and laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390771**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of tlc and companionship. pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

TASHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047**

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

L I S A blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

43YR old single dad looking for LTR, enjoys gym, cinema, nights in/out, seeks similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391378**

SOMETHING different? Single Sussex male seeks openminded female/couple for varied naturist activities. Discretion assured/expected. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391418**

MIKE 55, divorced, fed up, seeks female for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391502**

HONEST early 40's male, 5ft 2ins, big heart, lots of love to give, WLTM petite lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392123**

RETIRED gent, carer, tall, gentle giant, likes cuddles, seeks female, 40 plus for walks, drives, chats and afternoon tea. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392071**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

SINGLE male, 43, likes pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks young lady 25-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390876**

YACHT owning male, 52, seeks laughing lady who needs excitement and friendship. Hants/West Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390195**

JOHN young 53yr old, no ties, medium build, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, laidback, black belt, likes music, meals out, nights in, self employed, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389529**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125

(T&C's below)

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

HANDSOME polite male, likes music, swimming, football, cricket, cooking, seeks respectful, attractive female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391812**

JOHN 60, many interests, seeks female, any status for company and platonic friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391772**

ROMANTIC honest, caring male, 40, likes meals out, theatre, cinema, walks, seeks caring lady of similar age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392893**

GEORGE sincere, slim, active, likes meals out, drives, seeks lady 70-85 to enjoy life and share happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392625**

STEVE young looking guy seeks slim lady, 20-60 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391512**

MATURE male, discreet, genuine, seeks attractive, slim, petite lady, 40-65 for mutual fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391568**

MALE 55, medium build, seeks female for laugh, text, chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391714**

GRANT 43, seeks young female, 25-49. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391720**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DANIEL 38, single dad, 6ft, medium build, brown hair, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391746**

PETE 40, dark hair, blue eyes, fit, likes dancing, walks, cinema, meals out, seeks female, 25-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391748**

RON 62, good at heart, divorced, looking for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392533**

LATE 60's male, clean, smart, 5ft 10ins, WLTM nice slim, petite lady, any age for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392557**

SINGLE father 38, seeks fun lady, 35-39 for good times, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392575**

CHRISTIAN male WLTM Christian lady 58yrs plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391344**

SHY blond N/S male seeks female 18-45 for walks in countryside, friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391348**

GOOD looking fit 45yr old male looking for local no strings fun with female 18-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391350**

CHRIS 5ft 9ins, slim build, newly retired OHAC, solvent and seeking someone to care for. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391358**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

MARK bi-curious, seeks older couple, 45 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392889**

MALE 55, clean shaven, seeking similar male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391796**

SMALL N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386**

RICHARD 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097**

33YR old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236**

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The Enemy might make new friends on UK tour

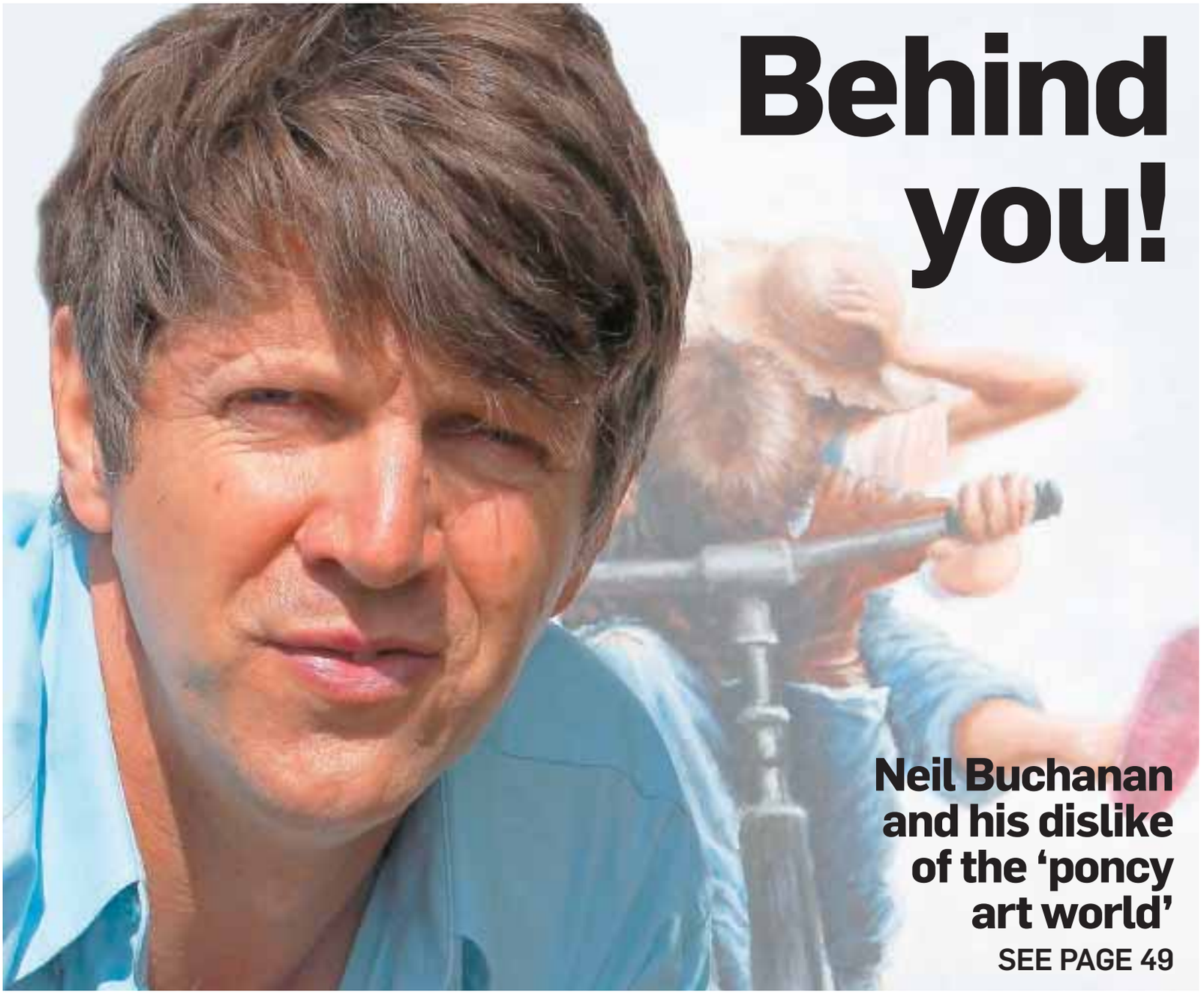
SEE PAGE 53

GARETH GATES

Reality music star will be at his most charming in panto

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend



Behind you!

Neil Buchanan and his dislike of the 'poncy art world'

SEE PAGE 49

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THE INTERVIEW

Neil Buchanan

A rare attack of popular art

The former children's TV presenter talks to **Joe Bill** about modern art and not being dead

THE art critics only like art that we, the public, don't understand. All that does is justify their lofty position, because they are the only ones who do understand it..."

Less than 10 years ago, Neil Buchanan fronted an art show that was beamed out to more than six million viewers every week. Running for 17 years and 500 episodes, Art Attack took children's television and, in particular, art shows, to a new level.

He said: "I don't like the poncy art world – people talk about how wonderful a painting is when really we are all standing there thinking it's a load of codswallop. Then they whack a £40,000 price-tag on it and we still don't know whether to hang it upside down or back to front. There is a lot of nonsense in the art world.

"That's what Art Attack was, it was the art show for people who don't like art."

For most 20- to 35-year-olds in Britain, Neil Buchanan was part of their childhood. The man who brought art to the masses from the Maidstone TV Studios is remembered fondly as one of the cornerstones of children's TV.

Overcoming vicious internet rumours of his death, Buchanan returns with his latest exhibition, inspired by his frustrations with the 2012 Olympics. He said: "I launched my first collection last year, which was Hope Street, and now we have Backstreet Games."

Buchanan will display his new art pieces at bistros and small venues around the UK, starting with Woods Restaurant in The Pantiles at Tunbridge Wells, just a short distance from his East Sussex home in Peasmarsh.

Explaining his new work, he said: "I knew everyone would be going Olympic-crazy, but I also thought at some point everyone will become sick of the bloomin' Olympics. So I decided to go the opposite way.

"I think it is a great event – I think it's awesome – but I'm cynical about all these people who talk about legacies.

"These people are making a huge amount of money by protecting words such as 'Olympics' and 'London 2012' by clamping down on charities and schools who try to use those words to celebrate and inspire young people. But they throw us a little titbit by talking about legacies. What is the legacy for people outside of east London? If you want to talk about legacy and inspiring young people, the bottom line is that they get out on to the street and do their own versions anyway.

BACKSTREET GAMES: Neil Buchanan's latest collection is to be displayed at Woods Restaurant, Tunbridge Wells, until September

"The sporting side will inspire people – of course it will – but they will be out in the street, chalking the pitch out and playing their own version. That's where the art is – it's the backstreet version of the Olympics."

Punters can buy limited-edition prints of the Backstreet Games pieces, but Buchanan is very pragmatic about the art world.

"I thought about how many people who have followed me over the years actually go into poncy art galleries... a very, very small percentage. So I wanted to try something different by bringing it to places like Woods.

"At the end of the day, all art is, is really a picture. You either stick it on your wall or you don't – hopefully, people will stick mine on their wall and if they do it's a privilege for me."

Since his retirement from TV, Neil Buchanan has been the subject of a number of rumours.

"I've been asked to do the jungle, Big Brother, all of them... but no, not for me. I don't do the celebrity thing – it just doesn't appeal."

And why would he need to? With three Bafta Awards to his name, Buchanan was for a long time the darling of children's TV.

"With Art Attack, I was just putting the mischief into the art, making it accessible to people. There was already Tony Hart and Rolf Harris, but because Art Attack looked quite modern it made the others look quite dated.

"We won three Baftas and were nominated 12 times – we became the yardstick by which they measured everyone else."

Fame came hand in hand with the show's success, but this has never been something that has caused much bother in Buchanan's life. He said: "I remember some kids came charging towards me – my little girl said 'Watch out, Dad, there's some kids coming up' and I replied 'Darling, they paid for this holiday'. That is something I will never forget – the audience put me where I am now."

However, he could never have imagined the level of fame he would acquire long after his Art Attack retirement. Even now, if you type into an internet search engine the name Neil Buchanan, by the time you press the B button the phrase 'Neil Buchanan Dead' arrives on your screen.

"It was all pretty grim. It was about five years ago. There was a gang of idiots around at the time who used this new medium called Facebook to dig at celebrities.

"Unfortunately, the rumour happened just as we went on a family holiday to Wales and there were no phones or signal or way of contacting people. It was just as we got there and I didn't know about it for a week. My mum, who was 75 at the time, had several people coming up to her and saying they were awfully sorry to hear about my death. And no one could get in touch with me for a week."

His loyal Art Attack audience was naturally shocked and the rumour spread like wildfire across the social-networking site.

"There was a lot of confusion because at the time Tony Hart died and there was also the tragic episode with Mark Spait, so you had two TV artists who had died and then the rumours about me, so people mixed a lot of stuff up. But that's the world we live in. I don't give two hoots about it other than it affecting my mum."

• Neil Buchanan will introduce Backstreet Games at Woods Restaurant, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, July 17; the display runs until Sunday, September 9.

Visit www.woodsrestaurant.co.uk or www.neilbuchanan.co.uk for details.

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Basque in the flavours of some Spanish dishes by our seaside

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

THE Williams & Brown Tapas Bar in Whitstable is totally in keeping with the classy seaside-town surroundings. It is not overstated, there are no flashing lights, it is just a simple restaurant... a simple idea that oozes quality and attention to detail.

The restaurant is predominantly a tapas bar, as the name suggests, although there are other fish dishes and paellas on the menu to maintain the Spanish theme. Estrella is the beer of choice, while the cheapest bottle of Hispanic wine comes in at £15.50.

After recommendation from our attendant to decide on five or six dishes for two people, our choices began to flow from the kitchen. The chef decided, and quite rightly, to start us off with a lighter dish – almost like serving up a starter.

The manchego with membrillo ewes' milk cheese and quince jelly (£6.95) arrived first and blew me away. The sweet quince with the sour manchego was a match made in heaven, while the chilli it was served up with added spice to an excellent collection of flavours.

In a very European start to the meal, our next dish of Basque chorizo and salchichon (£6.25), which we combined with the left-over manchego, creating our own aperitivo.

A huge bowl of deep-fried whitebait with aioli

dip (£5.95) arrived as a stop-gap before our more meaty dishes – well, we couldn't eat in Whitstable without having a little fish! They were crispy and delicious with no hint of grease, but a good number of them were left behind as we entered the business end of the meal.

The dishes arrived at intervals of about five mintues, ensuring that each was given a proper airing on the table before the next arrived. Up next were the Albondigas meatballs in tomato ragout (£8.50), again cooked to perfection with no dryness – which can often be the downfall of a meatball dish. The tomato ragout smothered the beef, which tenderly fell apart on contact with taste buds.

Then came the most anticipated dish of the day, the beef Madrid, thinly-sliced ribeye steak, chargrilled and served with salad leaves and shavings of manchego (£12.50).

The four small pieces of steak still cooking in their own juices were top-quality. I usually go for a dollop of something with my beef, but this didn't need it. The flavours of the meat did it all. It was an excellent dish if a little pricey for the size.

Our final choice, which opperated more as a side order towards the end, was the classic patatas bravas – deep-fried potatoes with spiced tomato sauce (£3.95). It was again a large bowl and a fair bit came home in a doggy bag.

The atmosphere was intimate, the staff were knowledgable and the food was excellent, all for £59.15.

Now Whitstable is not quite the Costa Vasca, but it is beginning to do a good impression.

Joe Bill

Williams & Brown Tapas
Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AQ
Telephone 01227 273 373
Website www.thetapas.co.uk

Former Ramsay chef learns how to brew

RENOWNED chef Angela Hartnett MBE has visited Shepherd Neame's Faversham brewery to find out about women's role in brewing for part of a BBC TV series.

Great British Food Revival will see chefs across the UK investigating forgotten food traditions. Canterbury-born Angela, who has worked with the likes of Gordon Ramsay, joined head-brewer Richard Frost to creat 34,000 pints of the brewery's ale.

The pressure was on for the first-timer as she mimicked the women brewers of yesteryear, known as brewsters or ale wives. The 20-episode series is due to broadcast in the autumn.

New chef sets record at Tudor Park venue

A RISING star of the culinary world has become the new head chef at Tudor Park in Bearsted.

Fresh from winning a Europe-wide catering competition, Tom Biddle has taken up his new post at the age of just 25 – making him the youngest executive head chef among the Marriott Hotel Group's 58 UK-based hotels.

He has already clocked up 10 years of catering experience and says he "eats, sleeps and breathes food". The move to Tudor Park will see him leading a team of 12, serving up dishes for the hotel's restaurant and catering for up to 250 people at business banquets, golf events and up to 50 weddings a year.

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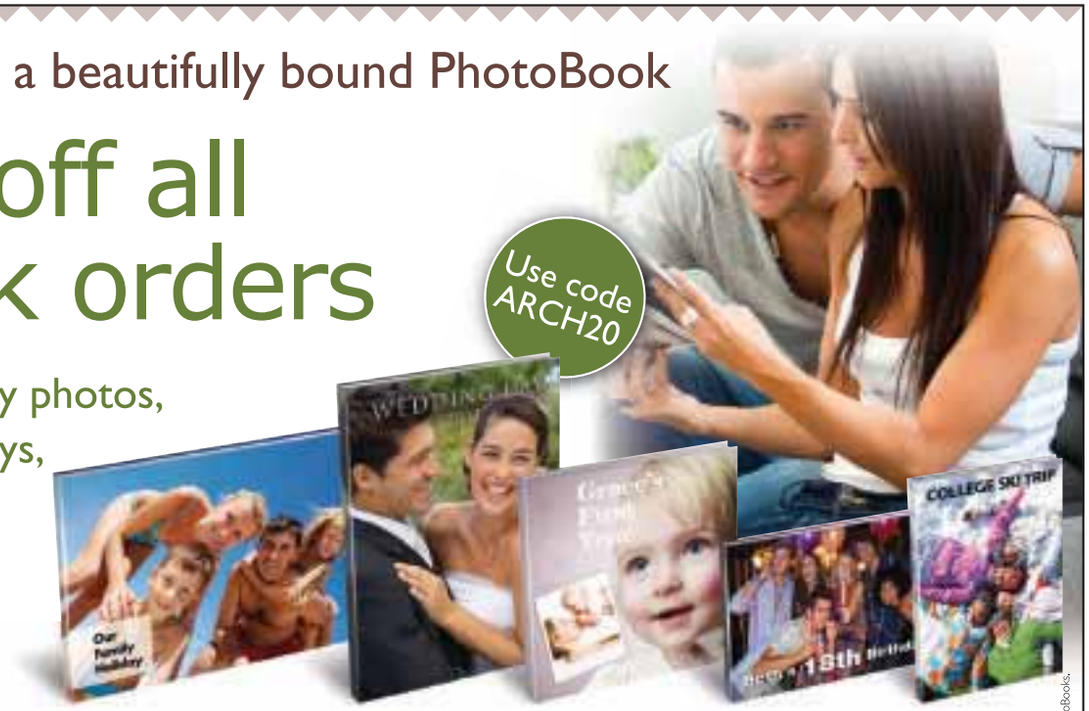

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A finest Kent roast is not just for winter

SUCCULENT meats, juicy vegetables and plenty of gravy... is your mouth watering? Of course, we can only be talking about the classic king of dinners, the Sunday roast

It is synonomous with the UK and we've all grown up with the idea of families getting together to enjoy this winning combination.

Its greatness as a meal has travelled overseas as many tourist areas in France and Spain will strategically place the roast dinner on the menu to appease hungry Brits.

But here in Kent we are taking the tradition of the Sunday roast to the next level. We all know it is easy to change a roast in accordance with the seasons. There are the filling vegetables of winter such as Brussels sprouts, cabbage and parsnips, or the lighter summer offerings like new potatoes, peas and runner beans, but it is the choice of meats here in the Garden of England that has changed the face of the roast.

Gone are the days when lamb, beef, pork or chicken were all that Kent had to offer. Be on the look-out now for roast goose with chilli carrots, roast duck with plum sauce... or even roast woodpigeon!

And let's not forget Kent's glorious coast, which offers up so many sumptuous fish dishes. Along the beaches, our restaurants often promote their freshly-caught cod or plaice – or maybe shellfish are more your thing.

The choice of dishes that Kentish folk can proudly call 'locally sourced' provides an extra joy to our Sunday lunch.

Here are six places in which to savour the experience.

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...
A very popular Sunday lunch, offering one course for 10.50, two courses for £13.50 and three courses for £15.50. Choose from a selection of meats including pork, lamb, and beef with the trimmings.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Walnut Tree
Aldington

Why here...
The Walnut Tree is a warm, friendly pub and restaurant. It offers affordable lunches from midday to 2pm Monday to Friday; starters are £1.50, main courses £3.50 and desserts £1.50.

On the menu...
Tuesday to Thursday evenings has two courses for £10. Friday and Saturday evening is 15 per cent off your bill, while Sunday lunches cost £6.50 including a choice of five meats.

How to book...
The Walnut Tree,
Forge Hill, Aldington
TN25 7DT
phone: 01233 720298

Walpole Bay
Cliftonville

Why here...
The Wapole Bay Hotel and Living Museum with its unique art gallery of napery art, as seen on TV, is open from 10am-5pm.
The venue is open for breakfast at 7am and serves snacks and cream teas through to dinner. Pre-booking is required.
There is an outdoor terrace with fantastic views, so it's ideal for both winter and summer, while the hotel has a ballroom, a snooker room and two bars.

On the menu...
There is a fantastic five-course Sunday roast available every week for just £19.95 and £10.50 for children. A resident pianist entertains diners during meals. There is only one sitting, at which you will need to arrive at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. It is best to book in advance.

How to book...
Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville CT9 2JJ
phone: 01843 221703; web: www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

The Swan
Westgate

Why here...
The Swan at Westgate is renowned for its function room, restaurant and spacious bars with a comfortable feel-good factor and is just a very nice place to spend time and eat well.

On the menu...
The carvery is second to none and available midday-5pm on Sundays. Booking is advised! There is a selection of roasts with vegetables plus great vegetarian options at £8.99 per person.

How to book...
The Swan, 75 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8QG
phone: 01843 831401; web: www.theswanatwestgate.co.uk

Waggon at Hale
Chatham

Why here...
A well-run family pub with good food, good wine and beer and a friendly atmosphere. Families are always welcome and in the big garden is a mini family farm with chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and Crackling the miniature pig.
Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than we are – a warm and friendly country pub offering real food and drink, selected, prepared and served by a friendly team."

On the menu...
The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes and pockets, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, served every Sunday from midday to 6pm. A three-course meal costs £14.95. Booking is advisable to avoid disappointment.

How to book...
Waggon at Hale, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP; phone: 01634 400800; web: www.waggonathale.co.uk

Beachbrow Hotel
Deal

Why here...
Beachbrow Hotel and its Waterfront restaurant is a small family-run business with helpful and friendly staff. The restaurant and bar have beautiful views over the Channel and its white cliffs.

On the menu...
Sunday roasts are second to none. Choose from Alkham Valley beef, fruit-fed pork, free-range chicken or duck and Romney Marsh lamb. All vegetables are sourced locally and cooked fresh on the day.

How to book...
The Beachbrow Hotel, 29 Beach Street, Deal CT14 6HY; phone: 01304 374338; email: beachbrowbookings@live.co.uk

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Saturday 11 August, 7.30pm
Tickets £17.50 - £19.50

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Tickets £17 - £21

Roy Chubby Brown
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Tickets £22

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Live in this town...

The Enemy return

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Monday, October 22, at 7pm
0844 8717627
www.atgtickets.com

ARGUABLY the best band to come out of Coventry since The Beat, The Enemy have announced a Kent date on their much-anticipated UK tour.

The indie trio will head to the Leas Cliff Hall in October off of the back of their third and latest album Streets In The Sky

The group formed in 2006, with their debut 2007 album We'll Live And Die In These Towns topping the charts and singles Away From Here and Had Enough gaining the band top-10 hits and an army of diehard fans.

Their second album, Music For the People, was released in 2009 and charted strongly at No 2. Tickets cost £18.50 and are available now.

For the bride and the groom

Wedding fair

The Kennington, Ashford
Saturday, June 30
10am-4pm
01233 629028

BRIDES-TO-BE and enthusiastic grooms can pop along to Ashford's newest wedding fair at The Kennington,

The newly-refurbished venue in Ulley Road, Kennington, will show off some of Kent's finest wedding paraphernalia.

Exhibitors will include experts in stylish wedding cars, photography, floristry, cake designs, chair covers, bridal hair and make-up, wedding dresses and even marriage stationery.

You can see the wedding-day fashion show by Happily Ever After at 2pm.

The show is free to enter and there will be a complimentary finger buffet, tea and coffee. The Kennington also has a licence to hold civil ceremonies.

Taking sports to a new level

Olympic effort

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Monday, July 2, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

JUST in time for the Olympic Games, the Reduced Shakespeare Company brings The Complete World of Sports (abridged) to Canterbury.

The entire history of athletic competition is revisited in a marathon of madness that sees the world's greatest sporting events shrunk down to theatrical size.

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Quarterman the highlight

Jazz festival

Maidstone town centre
Fri and Sat, June 29-30
01622 678777; www.maidstonetowncentre.com

MAIDSTONE town centre hosts its jazz festival this weekend.

Some of the best performers from the UK jazz scene will be heading to the county town for a riot of music.

The undoubted highlight on the Friday will be Sir Joe Quarterman performing with the Jezebel Sextet at Pizza Express from 8pm.

On the Saturday, the Invicta Jazz Orchestra will play in Jubilee Square from 2pm to 4pm, while at Pudding Lane, Dr Jazz will play from 10am to 12.30pm, followed by Java Jam from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

At Gabriel's Hill, The Jamie Moore Dave Reay Quartet play from 10am to midday, followed by Hannah Bolton at 2pm to 4pm.

The String Theory Trio will perform at Maidstone Museum.

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CANTERBURY **FOCUS**

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

COMMUNITY

Our city has something for everyone to enjoy

IDEAL to visit at any time but particularly attractive in the summer, Canterbury is one of the most attractive cities in Britain and receives thousands of visitors each year.

And it also boasts what is increasingly rare these days – a wide range of local stores offering distinctive goods and services.

The Burgate and King's Mile areas of the city are particularly popular in this respect and have some of the finest independent stores anywhere in the south of England.

Many food stores specialise in the produce of the Garden of England, which is also served up in eateries – meaning meat, vegetables, fish, wine and beer really are locally sourced.

And this week on Wednesday, July 4, it is the official Independents' Day – a support-your-local-shop campaign inspired by the US's national day of celebration.

The cathedral and its surroundings are recognised by UNESCO as being of worldwide importance, while there are many other buildings of historic significance, including sections of the original medieval city wall with its towers and a Roman villa.

It is also the home of Kent County Cricket club, while punts ply their way past parks and open spaces through the river, which flows through the city centre.

But as well as a city with a rich past, it is one looking very much to the future with an excellent range of shopping facilities, hotels, cafés, bars, pubs and clubs.

The winding streets offer treat upon treat as shoppers can choose from unique products unavailable elsewhere; the friendly service of small stores is a feature of Canterbury's attraction to visitors.

The city is famous for its bookshops – an important feature for an area that is home to top-class educational facilities such as the University of Kent and Christchurch University.

The rebuilt and extended Marlowe Theatre opened its doors last year and is bringing top names in music, drama, dance and comedy to the city, while the more eclectic Gulbenkian also has a wide range of events including music, comedy and visiting speakers.

There is a flourishing music scene in the city's pubs and there was even a Canterbury Sound in the 1970s featuring bands such as Caravan.

Nowadays, the Lounge On The Farm festival is one of the most popular in the UK and has attracted top-name acts in recent years, including Echo And The Bunnymen, Dexys Midnight Runners and The Streets.

For a mixture of great shopping opportunities away from the clone stores that dominate so many towns, entertainment and top-class food and drink, Canterbury is a must-visit location – whether you live on the doorstep or make a special journey to enjoy its unique charms.

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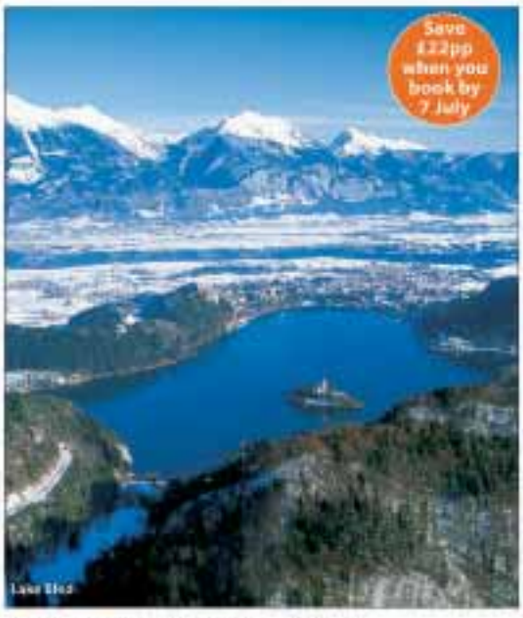

Come with us for a festive break to some of our favourite places on the planet. Bordered by Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia, the former Yugoslavian state of Slovenia is less than 2 hours flying time from Stansted. Better still, Lake Bled, our base for the weekend, is just 30 minutes drive from Ljubljana airport and our hotel is a stone's throw from the lake. The Christmas Market in Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital, is one of the most splendid and evocative in Europe. Just across the border in Austria, the riverside town of Villach offers more festive goodies at its Christkindlmarkt. Both countries have the Euro as their currency – currently the exchange rate is at its most favourable since 2008.

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The Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone, overlooks the harbour and has super sea views. The hotel is well known for its entertainment programmes providing live cabaret entertainment every evening.
Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire is located in the heart of the English countryside in the village of Market Bosworth. Dating back to the 17th century, this Grade II-listed mansion is set in landscaped gardens.

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Price pp
Grand Burstin	3, 9, 16, 30 July; 13, 20, 27 August	4	£135
Folkestone	6, 13, 20, 27 July; 17, 24, 31 August	3	£99
Includes nightly entertainment	3, 10 September		
	7, 14, 21 September	3	£99
Bosworth Hall	6, 13, 20, 27 July; 10, 17, 24, 31 August	3	£109
Hotel	7, 14, 21, 28 September	3	£109
Leicestershire	16 July; 13, 27 August	4	£145

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights is an en-suite hotel room with dinner & breakfast. PLUS (entertainment where stated)

Pontin's Seaside Deals with adult only entertainment

Camber Sands Holiday Village, Sussex Coast
- 10 September & 8 October

Brean Sands Holiday Village, Somerset Coast
- 17 September & 15 October

4 nights half board with nightly 'Happy Hours'

Quote PAO-KOS

£119pp

Pontin's Holiday Villages are situated on the coast in super locations near Burnham on Sea, Somerset and Rye, Sussex. Enjoy live entertainment every night in a child-free venue. There's a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, crazy golf, tennis and more. You'll also enjoy 'Happy Hour' with cut-price drinks in the bar every evening. Accommodation is in comfortable en-suite chalets with TV and tea/coffee-making facilities. Included meals are taken in the buffet style cafeteria.

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Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote XP11-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, a 99p Bar every night, ground-floor chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 10pm every night • Variety Entertainment every night featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening - 5 dinners & 5 breakfasts - 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities - upgrades available

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly
– Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value
– Mr & Mrs Thurston of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful – Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Exclusive Party Breaks at Pontin's Pakefield

DAY OUT

Do you have what it takes to demonstrate your skills and become a knight of the king's court?

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ON your marks, get set and go to Dover Castle for Medieval Olympics on special days throughout July, when King Henry II and the bravest champions assemble to put on 12th-century-style games.

Families are welcome to come and try their hands at the skills that made a fighting man – or woman – of the period.

The king will be in residence at his mighty stronghold, Dover, looking for the boldest young squires to join his jousting team.

He will scrutinise them as they are put through their paces by his great knight William the Marshall.

Under Sir William's fearsome glare, young knights will be taught how to joust and use a sword and find out if they have what it takes to become a knight of England at the court of King Henry II.

The king will not only be seeking skills on the battlefield. At his palace, furnished to the height of 12th-century luxury, only those with the finest courtly manners will thrive.

Young visitors will learn how to charm their noble masters and mistresses at lessons in chivalry given by the beautiful Queen Margaret, daughter-in-law to King Henry.

William the Marshall and King Henry II will be waiting for a fresh crop of knights to take on the challenge of the tournament – which of Kent's young squires and ladies will take up the challenge?

Dover Castle is open daily from 10am-6pm, with Medieval Olympic character days on Saturday and Sunday, July 7-8, Saturday and Sunday, July 14-15, and Saturday to Tuesday, July 21-31.

Normal admission prices apply of just £16.50 for adults, £14.90 for concessions, £9.90 for children and £42.90 for a family ticket. English Heritage go members free.

Visitors can also take the opportunity to explore some of the castle's other amazing areas, including the Secret Wartime Tunnels, now featuring the exciting and dramatic Operation Dynamo: Rescue From Dunkirk experience.

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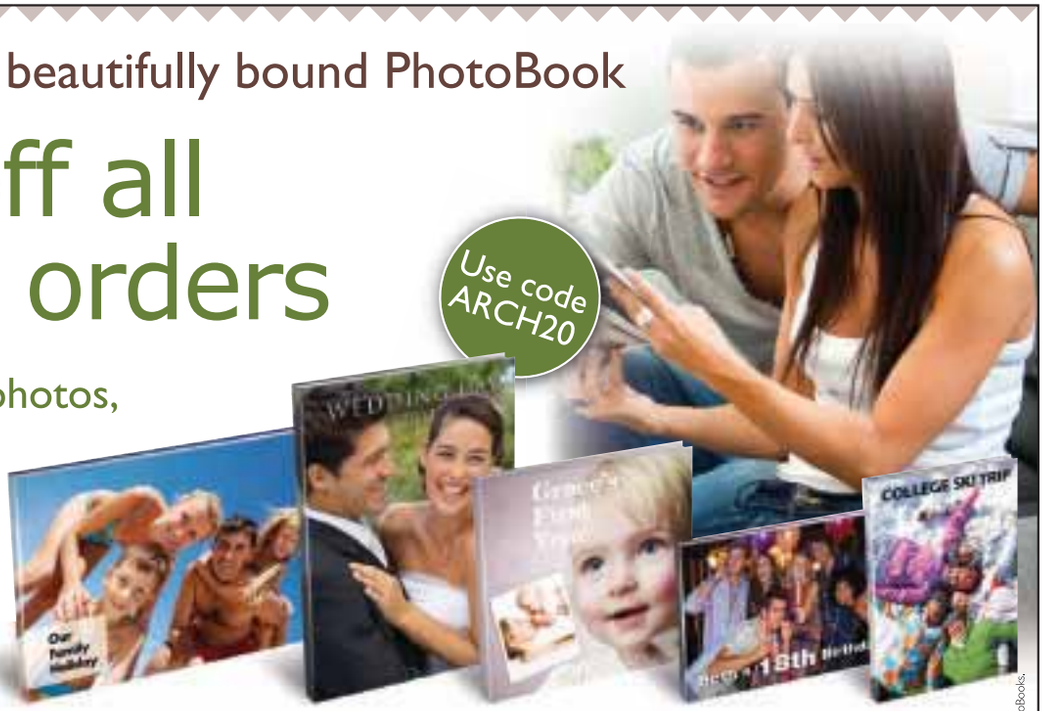

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It takes two to do the tango

One-off gig

Shepherdswell village hall
Sunday, July 8
2.30pm-5.30pm
www.westcourttango.co.uk

THE Westcourt Tango group will host Argentinian musicians Carlos Quilici and Javier Fioramonti at Shepherdswell village hall next week.

The pair, who play Agentine Tango with the traditional guitar and bandoneón, are stopping off for a one-off live gig as part of a European tour.

Their repertoire comprises well-known traditional tangos, presenting an ideal opportunity for people in east Kent to dance to authentic Argentinian music.

And even if you're not a dancer, just sit and listen to what promises to be a stunning performance of tango.

Tickets are priced at £10 and include refreshments. Parking at the hall is limited.

Daisy's daring you to watch

Open-air play

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
Wed to Sat, July 18-21
01732 866114
www.heverfestival.co.uk

THE Hever Summer Festival swings back into action month with the totally-spiffing play Daisy Pulls It Off.

Inspired by Angela Brazil's schoolgirl novels, Denise Deegan's comedy brilliantly parodies the life and soul of a girl's boarding school of yesteryear... "all gym-slips and hockey sticks, a sort of St Trinian's without the delinquency".

The plucky heroine, Daisy Meredith, with the help of her best friend, Trixie Martin, overcomes a series of trials and tribulations by being honourable in all things.

The original West End production of Daisy Pulls It Off started back in 1983 at The Gielgud Theatre.

Tickets start at £14.

Design among the flowers

Sculpted art

Godinton House, Ashford
Sat, July 21-Sun, August 12
01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

TALENTED new artists will be exhibiting their sculptural work in the fabulous surroundings of Godinton House gardens.

The work will be displayed throughout the 13 acres of formal and wild gardens, where crisp topiary or shimmering wild grasses make the perfect backdrop.

Exhibiting at Godinton for the first time this year, Scottish artist Rob Mulholland will be showing Vestige – eerie mirrored figures that shimmer in and out of their landscape.

The dream-like theme is continued with Linda Johns's ethereal wire figures and woven web forms.

Cecilia Buchanan is celebrating the Olympics with a synchronised swimming team in the formal pond.

Open from 2pm-5.30pm.

Theatre in the park

Shakespeare's dream

Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne
Tuesday, July 3, at 6pm
01227 831355
www.charlton-park.org

RETURNING to Charlton Park for a third year, Durham University's award-winning Castle Theatre Company is performing Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The picnicking audience will be transported to a world of woodland fairies and theatrical endeavours while following four young people's quest to find their soul-mates, despite what life – and roguish pixies – throw at them.

The two previous Castle Theatre productions, Much Ado About Nothing and Macbeth, were well received by local audiences and enjoyed by visiting overseas students.

Tickets £12 adults, £7 children and students.

YOUR WEEKEND

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To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

Literati unite
Medway has a new festival

Eastgate House, Rochester
Sunday, July 22
Midday-4pm
www.rochesterlitfest.com

A NEW event for Medway launches in July under the banner of the Rochester Literature Festival.

With the first festival 'proper' planned to coincide with National Poetry Day in October 2013, a number of fringe events take place this summer to get things started.

The first of these is The Garden Poetry Party, on Sunday, July 22, at Eastgate House Gardens.

Medway poet Bill Lewis will be joined by storyteller and festival founder Philip Kane, The James Worse Public Address Method and singer songwriters Abigail Zeiring-Delmado and Didi Bergman.

Comperes for the afternoon will be stand up comics CO Jones and Mat Wills.

Entertainment includes open-mic sessions and a children's creative corner.

Wartime Kent brought to life
Railway days

Tenterden and Bodiam
Sat and Sun, June 30-July 1
01580 765155
www.kesr.org.uk

THE Kent and East Sussex Railway will remember the First World War with a living-history spectacular.

Ninety-six years ago, troops were massed in the South East before being sent by train to fight in the first few days of the Battle of the Somme, a battle that commenced on July 1, 1916.

The days feature 50 historians in military and civilian costume, while authentic equipment at the station will include a general service wagon, Lewis machine gun cart and period photography booth.

Visitors can also take advantage of a steam train and enjoy a ride in one of the beautifully-restored vintage carriages.

Pop Idol Gates up for a laugh
Panto launch

The Marlowe, Canterbury
November 30-January 20
01227 787 787
www.marlowetheatre.com

THE stars were out in force for the launch of The Marlowe Theatre's pantomime for 2012-13, Sleeping Beauty.

Pop Idol icon and West End star Gareth Gates takes the lead role as Prince Charming opposite Faye Brookes, best known for her role in the Legally Blonde stage show currently touring the country.

Punk singer and Marlowe regular Toyah Willcox plays the wicked fairy, while youngsters will recognise Katrina Bryan from children's TV show Nina And The Neurons.

Evolution Production chief Paul Hendy desgins the show, which is sure to once again take panto to a new level as a fire-breathing dragon heads up the special effects.

Jazz-lovers rejoice!
Get a ticket to Rye

Rye International Jazz Festival
Thursday to Monday, August 23-27
01892 277984
www.ryejazz.com

AUGUST sees the launch of the first Rye International Jazz Festival.

The festival will feature an array of recognised UK and international talent performing at ticketed events. There will also be many free performances at venues throughout Rye.

Headline acts include Anthony Strong, one of the rising starts of British jazz, who plays The George on Friday, August 24.

Also confirmed is legendary drummer Ginger Baker, above, with his Jazz Confusion at Rye College on Saturday, August 25.

London's IDMC Gospel Choir take you on an uplifting journey at the beautiful St Mary's Church on Sunday, August 26.

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Buying a new home can help the environment – and your bank balance

ACCORDING to the New Homes Marketing Board Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub, owners of new homes built to the latest regulations could benefit from halved fuel bills.

The organisations calculated the potential annual savings that could come from living in a different type of energy-efficient home (2010 standards) and compared these with an upgraded Victorian home.

On this basis a four-bedroom, detached new home could be 55 per cent cheaper to run, meaning a saving of £1,312, while a one-bedroom groundfloor flat could save 47 per – £426.

Homes built from 2016 could reduce bills by 79 per cent, a reduction of £1,865.

"We have always been aware of the energy savings that can be made living in a brand-new property", said Jo Richards, marketing and corporate manager at Hillreed Homes, an independent developer for more than 35 years.

"Legislation over the years, coupled with development in the knowledge of what is needed to provide warm, draught-free homes run by efficient boilers, has steadily improved the capacity of homes to 'hold' their heat, thereby reducing carbon footprint and high fuel bills."

Neil Jefferson, NHBC Foundation's director and Zero Carbon Hub's chief executive, said: "The cost data we have produced, while not guaranteed, gives an indication of the kind of monetary savings that could be made in the long term. We believe this kind of data could be useful for people making the decision to buy a new home."

Patience paid off, says property leader on visit to former airfield

ONE OF the UK's senior property experts has visited Kings Hill to see and hear how the private and public sectors can work together to create new developments.

Liz Peace, chief executive of advisory body the British Property Federation, was invited by Alex King, deputy leader of Kent County Council, and Andrew Blevins, managing director of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd.

She heard how, 23 years ago, Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd and Kent County Council formed a collaborative public-private sector partnership to develop Kings Hill.

In that time it has evolved into a community with a series of residential villages, a business park with more than 200 businesses creating employment for some 5,000 people and supporting retail, leisure and community amenities.

It has since been named the country's most successful new village in a national report on placemaking, ahead of Prince Charles's Poundbury development in Dorset.

Kings Hill's design, the provision of public and private amenity space, transport links, car-parking and community provision were cited as being particularly successful.

"It just goes to show how good design and a patient approach pays off," said Liz Peace.

"It was a great opportunity to see how Liberty and Kent County Council have worked together to transform a derelict airfield into a stylish, cohesive community that has become one of the most sought-after business locations in the South East and an aspirational place to live.

"I was particularly impressed by the variety of amenities on site, which is a great benefit to those working and living at Kings Hill."

HAPPY DAY: Property expert Liz Peace says she was impressed during her visit to Kings Hill

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Lamberhurst, Kent
Guide Price £500,000
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East Sutton, Kent
Guide Price £150,000
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Tonbridge, Kent
Guide Price £500,000
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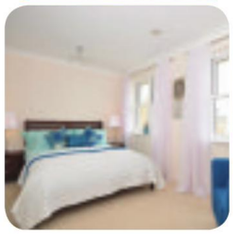

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Skoda's Rapid return comes with 'six' appeal
- Dealership to target company-car sector
- Hold everything – i30 now as a classy Tourer

Second-generation Mazda5 will make waves for its rivals

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT IS refreshing that resources can be found for an exciting new sports car at a time when the motor industry is rightly obsessed with slashing emissions and fuel-consumption.

Mind you, it's rather bizarre that one of the partners in this project is Toyota, the high-profile champion of petrol-electric hybrid cars, notably the sector-leading Prius.

Not so hard to comprehend, though, when you realise that Toyota's obsession with hybrid power has not come without cost – and I'm not talking about millions of yen invested in the technology.

For the Japanese giant is currently stuck with the 'boring' label once attached to every worthy project tried by Nissan, eventually forcing a change of tack that has spawned such big-sellers as the Nissan Qashqai and Juke crossovers.

Toyota will hope its new jointly-produced GT-86 coupé can do something similar, restoring glamour the company enjoyed when famous for sports stars like the Celica, Supra and MR2.

Its partner in the venture, Subaru, could also do with an injection of credibility from its BRZ version of the same new car; the brand now has a fantastic new diesel engine to offer loyal fans, but its image as a glamour brand was damaged when the old rally-bred Impreza was blitzed by increasingly weird facelifts and dubious add-ons like gold alloys.

So, Toyota and Subaru have common ground here, apart from the fact that the former owns a sizeable chunk of shares in the latter.

They appear to have hit their joint target spot on. The new car is a compact, smart low-slung coupé with a traditional front-engine/rear-wheel-drive layout for best possible weight distribution, and aggressively priced from £24,995, with lots of kit as standard including alloys, push-button engine start and dual-zone air-con.

That makes it a unique proposition around that price unless you count the Mazda MX-5 roadster.

The joint car also has an interesting powertrain; a typical Subaru flat-four engine that sits low in the car and contributes to the car's agility and poise. Defying the modern trend, it also lacks turbocharging, though this is not expected to last once aftermarket specialists get their hands on the little sportster.

A slick six-speed gearbox is fitted as standard, but both marques are offering the car with a six-speed auto (£1,500), allowing F1-style paddle changes on the steering wheel.

Despite being designed to boost the sporting image of both marques, though, the GT86/BRZ is not without some practicality; 2+2 seating has been added so that a couple of children or small adults could squeeze into the back, thus helping an enthusiast argue with the other half that it can just about function as a useful second car for the family... though don't expect Gran to come out for a ride

TOTOTA GT86/SUBARU BRZ

Price: £24,995
Driving appeal: Not driven yet
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliabilty: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Mazda MX-5 CC

Double acts combined thinking delivers true sporting pleasure

IT'S TWICE AS NICE: Toyota's GT-86 coupé and Subaru's BRZ go against the current trend for fuel efficient and low emission cars to deliver two real drivers' cars

DON'T LIKE

... how long we've had to wait for both Japanese marques to come to their senses and produce a car with much-needed character and glamour.

NOT SURE

... there is quite enough practicality in the cabin to attract the take-up the car really deserves, but the kids will just have to lump it now and again.

REALLY LIKE

... the fact that someone (Toyota, surprisingly) has realised that there is still a market and desire for affordable performance motoring.

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MOTORING

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XJ no longer living in the past

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JAGUAR'S original XJ6 arrived around the time that rock band Jethro Tull released its classic 1969 track Living In The Past.

Company-founder Sir William Lyons called the new car "the finest Jaguar ever" and, like the Tull single, it was a hit, but one that condemned Jaguar to living in the past for some 40 years.

Stuck in an automotive version of the plot from Groundhog Day, the company heeded Jag traditionalists and continually tried to re-create the look of the original XJ until it looked horribly outmoded against increasingly sharp-suited German opposition.

At least until 2010, when, emboldened by the success of its radically-different and smaller XF saloon, Jaguar broke the cycle of retro re-creation and receding sales with an all-new XJ.

The squarish grille remained, but old-fashioned twin headlamps were replaced by wraparound slitted arrays, while a wide low-slung body and glassy rear end gave this new XJ a unique style and swagger in its class.

Suddenly, it's fashionable again to be seen getting out of the big Jag at red-carpet events, political summits, conferences and the company car park. The XJ even made an appearance in several episodes of the recent American hit TV thriller series Homeland, alongside another UK import, actor Damian Lewis.

And though now a huge car when compared with the original, this impression is quickly dispelled behind the wheel, for the latest XJ harks back to the original 1960s car in one key area – agility and handling.

Admittedly, those buying the long-wheelbase version tested here probably won't drive themselves, and chauffeur James would get earache for attacking tight bends with the boss lounging in the back.

But the fact the big cat can do this at all, though, impresses as much as its obvious style and charm; an all-aluminium body some 150 kilos lighter than its next closest rival helps, but near-perfect 51:49 weight balance between front and rear and Jaguar's well-known chassis savvy are also key factors.

Like the exterior, the interior is also quite unlike anything else in its sector; from continually re-creating the Jag look of old, the proud UK premium marque has gone ahead and created a whole new contemporary style worthy of early days when Jaguar established itself as a manufacturer of style and innovation with classics like the E-Type roadster and Mark II saloon.

The cabin is airy and spacious anyway, thanks to a large glazed area, standard-fit panoramic sunroof – with opening front section – and a fascia that arcs away to be bounded by wood or carbon-fibre detailing below the screen – a feature that would have been at the front of the dash in 'trad Jag' models of old.

Another 'new Jag' detail is the large automatic gearbox selector knob that rises from the centre console once activated by the ignition – a stylish and unique feature.

Prices start at £55,515 for the standard car – the stretched model (LWB), with an extra 12.5cm of legroom, adds £3,000 to the price.

The car oozes quality even in entry-level Luxury trim – our car was an upper-middle range Portfolio (from £66,515) model.

Three engines are offered: a 5.0-litre supercharged V8 petrol unit with its supercar acceleration (0-60mph in just 4.7 seconds) grabs the headlines; an unblown version of the same engine grabs none; while a 3.0-litre V6 diesel takes all the sales and an ever-growing stash of awards.

The silky diesel – tested here – delivers a sensible 275bhp, quite enough to move the relatively lightweight Jag around with pace if needed, yet it can average almost 40mpg with care.

JAGUAR XJ 3.0L DIESEL PORTFOLIO LWB: PRICE £66,515

SUBSTANCE AND STYLE: Jaguar's XJ impresses at every turn; from stunning look to superb interior, the carmaker has created a car worthy of its more famous predecessors

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£120/year
Best rival:	Hyundai ix35

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Rapid makes it special 'six'

SKODA has revived the name Rapid, last worn – without great justification – on a 1980s rear-engine coupé from the Czech marque.

It should be more deserving on the boot of a thoroughly-modern all-new compact saloon due later this year, designed to sit between the current Fabia supermini and Octavia family range, and increase the Skoda line-up to six models.

Mazda means real business

DARTFORD-based Mazda UK is aiming to make more inroads into the company-car sector by launching an aggressive contract hire rate of £229.99 per month on the tax-efficient 2.2-litre diesel Mazda6 Business Line hatchback.

It has followed up by also promising delivery of this well-specc'd-up version within 14 days at a time when some marques are struggling to meet fleet demand.

Great estate from Hyundai

HYUNDAI launches the classy-looking Tourer (estate) version of its impressive new-generation i30 family hatchback on Monday, July 23, priced from £16,195.

The Korean marque says the newcomer has greater luggage capacity than key competitors – 528 litres and 1,642 litres with seats up and folded flat respectively – and even outshines some models from the market segment above.

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New Mazda5 making the right waves

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

OLD VW camper-vans and minibuses are cool. Values have shot up in recent years as people bought into the surfer image delivered by these old clunkers.

Never mind that the air-cooled rear engine/rear-driven layout makes for a primitive life on the road, they still deliver in buckets and spades when you pull up at the beach.

And maybe this is the place in the sun Mazda sought for its second-generation Mazda5 MPV – how else do you explain the extravagant wave design along the flanks?

But King Canute could have told the Japanese marque this whole wave thing can be tricky – in a bid to look cool, you risk being a washout.

Whether you like the waves or not, though, there's no arguing with the practicality of this three-row seven-seater.

Following on from its predecessor, it has sliding rear doors – powered on the flagship Sport spec tested here – making life particularly easy.

The two rearmost seats – usually the preserve of kids – can be pressed into service for adults if the middle row is slid forward slightly, while all-rear seats fold flat to create a van-like cargo area.

You might argue, though, that this is not really a full seven-seater; the centre seat in the middle row is a bit miserly, even though it does flip up to allow easy entry/exit for back-row passengers.

But that fact and those controversial waves are the only big criticism here; like its predecessor, the Mazda5 is a rarity in the MPV sector because it offers a driver-pleasing chassis borrowed from the Mazda3 hatchback – no slouch in the handling department.

This counters my frequent complaint that many MPV-owners have such vehicles pressed on them by the need to cart kids and dogs about at weekends, only to endure the type's usual sloppy handling for far longer periods during the weekday commuting.

The Mazda, on the other hand, is a car for everyday needs. The driver still gets a high and commanding view, but, without the suggestion that the door handles may brush the tarmac when cornering, it doesn't corner like a hatchback – but you could not expect that from any MPV unless it had a bone-jarringly firm ride.

Fit and finish inside is good, with a typically well-organised dashboard and good stowage.

Prices start at £18,175 for the 115ps (113bhp) 1.8-litre petrol budget option, while the 150ps (148bhp) 2.0-litre petrol (from £19,365) is the sporty alternative – 0-62mph in 11 seconds at the cost of an official combined 41mpg fuel consumption – even if it doesn't really offer a great deal more than its sister.

The smart money, though, is on the 115ps (113bhp) 1.6-litre diesel (from £20,660) as tested here. It's the slowest option but doesn't feel it and is well refined, even though an MPV cabin allows plenty of scope for boom and reverberation. With an official combined 54.3mpg, it is also by far the most economical.

MINI ROAD TEST **MAZDA5 1.6D SPORT:** PRICE £22,440

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£120
Best rival:	Vauxhall Zafira

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ATHLETICS

Golden girl's Olympic joy achieved after shedding blood, sweat and many tears

Kelly Holmes' double-gold winning exploits at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games remain one of the most memorable moments in British sporting history. Now, in a book which takes a look at all Great Britain's gold medal winners, author **Clive Ellis** tells the story that led to her success

TWO images, 24 hours apart, symbolise the ethereal highs and suicidal lows of the Olympic experience. The first freeze-frames Paula Radcliffe's despair after pulling out of the marathon in Athens; the second captures Kelly Holmes's pop-eyed expression of pure joy as she crosses the line to win the 800m.

Five days later, Holmes ran a brilliantly controlled race to add the 1,500m title and seal the greatest performance by a British athlete at a single Olympics.

"To get two golds feels like somebody else in my body has done it," she admitted. "It doesn't feel like me." At 34, she was the oldest woman to win an Olympic title at either distance.

For much of her career Holmes had been buffeted by injury. In statistical terms, she was already Britain's finest ever female middle-distance runner, but she needed the imprimatur of a world or Olympic title to prove she was a competitor as well as a time triallist. The sheer talent had been evident from the moment she finished runner-up in her first cross-country race at the age of 12.

Holmes' mother, Pamela, had been only 17 when she became pregnant by her Jamaican boyfriend. The relationship collapsed before Kelly had celebrated her first birthday and she spent time in a children's home before being reunited full time when her mother and stepfather-to-be, Mick Norris, set up home together in Hildenborough.

Holmes faced another period of adjustment when her white step brothers were born.

She was only 13 when she won the junior 1,500m at the English Schools' Championships in Plymouth. Television coverage from the Los Angeles Games the following year, and in particular Seb Coe's 1,500m victory, fired her imagination even further. By now, Holmes had decided to be a physical training instructor (PTI) in the Army, turning down the offer of an athletics scholarship from the University of Minnesota.

Holmes underlined her promise as an athlete when she won the senior 1,500m at the English Schools' Championships in 1987, but she turned her back on competitive sport after joining the Army in February 1988.

She began her training as a PTI at Marchwood, near Southampton. One of the instructors was 400m hurdler Kris Akabusi, who encouraged Holmes to start training with Southampton Athletics Club. She began competing again in 1989, but Army duties still took precedence, especially after she had taken up her first instructor posting at Imphal Barracks, near York, in 1991.

Two factors combined to convince Holmes she could explore her potential as middle-distance runner without compromising her Army career. One was the persistence of Wes Duncan, a coach with Middlesex Ladies, who had seen her compete at the Inter-Services Championships.

The other was the sight of a distance runner whom she had beaten regularly as a junior, Lisa York, competing at the Barcelona Olympics. In 1992, Holmes ran regularly for Middlesex Ladies and, by now based in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, she set her sights on qualifying for the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart.

Holmes had beaten her personal best to qualify for Stuttgart and lined up in her first major championships; despite breaking the English record with a time of 1min 58.64sec, she was eliminated in the semi-finals.

Holmes still believed she could fulfil her athletics ambitions from within the Army and began working again with her original coach, Dave Arnold, from Tonbridge Athletics' Club.

In 1994, she followed a 1,500m silver medal at the European Championships in Helsinki with gold at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia.

She deferred a PTI training course so she could train for the World Championships in 1995, going unbeaten in the early part of the season before losing to the Algerian, Hassiba Boulmerka, in the 1,500m final in Gothenburg. She then broke the British 800m record to win the bronze medal, and went even quicker in Monte Carlo a few weeks later.

> **To get two golds feels like someone else in my body has done it – it doesn't feel like me**
>
> **HOLMES,** ON ATHENS VICTORIES

A placement with the Army Youth Team in north London allowed Holmes to prioritise the Atlanta Games in 1996. Her training was hampered, not for the first or last time, by ovarian cysts. Holmes' mood improved during a training camp in South Africa but, as she confided in the BBC's Olympic Diaries, she was short of confidence and self-belief.

"I'm feeling very negative, but nobody knows what I'm going through," she admitted.

A stress fracture to her left leg put Holmes' participation in doubt, but she ran in pain (and with the aid of pain-killing injections) to finish fourth in the 800m, just a tenth of a second behind bronze medallist Maria Mutola, and last in the 1,500m final. She came home on crutches, but was in better spirits when she shattered Zola Budd's 12-year British record for the 1,500m, running a time of 3min 58.07sec at the Sheffield Grand Prix meeting in June 1997.

Five months earlier Sgt Kelly Holmes had despatched the letter confirming her resignation from the Army before spending three months in South Africa.

Her immediate focus was on the World Championships in Athens. Holmes was the favourite for the 1,500m, but she suffered a recurrence of an Achilles tendon injury a fortnight beforehand and pulled up in agony in her heat; a torn Achilles and ruptured calf muscle were diagnosed. The following season was all but a write-off, though Holmes recovered sufficiently to win a silver medal in the 1,500m at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. She was also awarded the MBE for services to the Army.

In 1999, Holmes' training was so badly restricted by illness and injury – she also fell out with Arnold – that she competed solely in the 800m at the World Championships in Seville, failing to reach the final.

Arnold was back in favour for Olympic year, but a calf injury refused to clear up and Holmes was forced to rely on the British selectors giving her discretionary places for both the 800m and 1,500m in Sydney. Her expectations were minimal, so a bronze medal behind Mutola and Stephanie Graf, of Austria, in the 800m (and her fastest time for five years) constituted a major achievement.

An astonished Holmes said afterwards: "You couldn't have written it like this. A bronze is a gold to me." She finished seventh in the 1,500m final.

The all-too familiar pattern returned to haunt Holmes in 2001. She was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome at the start of the year and was still short of fitness when she competed in the World Championships in Edmonton, finishing sixth.

Holmes had to have an ovary removed at the end of the year, after suffering persistent stomach pains, but was back on a high in 2002, when she won the 1,500m at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. But Holmes lacked basic speed in 800m at the European Championships soon afterwards, finishing third.

Holmes lost motivation, but recaptured her appetite for the sport when she began training with Maria Mutola in Johannesburg at the end of 2002, helped by Mutola's coach, the American, Margo Jennings. A successful indoor season at the start of 2003 added to Holmes's sense of well-being, only to be stopped in her tracks by a persistent calf injury.

The low point came when Holmes was sharing an apartment with Mutola and Jennings in the Pyrenean ski resort of Font Romeu.

She wrote in her autobiography, Black, White and Gold: "After one particularly frustrating day, I suddenly felt as if I couldn't cope any longer. I stood in the bathroom of our room in the apartment, locked the door and stared in the mirror, feeling utterly miserable. There was a pair of nail scissors in a cup on a shelf. To this day, I don't know what made me do this, but I picked them up, opened them and started to cut my left arm with one of the blades. One cut for every day that I had been injured."

She was still short of confidence at the World Championships in Paris, but made an 11th-hour decision to compete in the 800m finishing second behind Mutola.

Mutola had remained largely injury-free for the bulk of her career, but at the start of Olympic year she injured her hip (ironically after tripping when she tried to get past Holmes in an indoor 1,500m in Birmingham). Holmes herself was so used to setbacks that even when fit – as she was in the build-up to Athens – she remained suspicious of her good fortune. She eventually decided to double up, forcing Jennings to make it plain that her primary loyalty was to Mutola in the 800m.

The Athens schedule required Holmes to run a potential six races in nine days, but she was able to win both her heat and semi-final in the 800m without expending too much energy.

In the final, Holmes was content to sit near the back of the field as a fierce pace was set, using Mutola as her marker to make up the deficit on the second lap. They vied for the lead in the final straight, but Mutola's injury-hit preparations were starting to tell. Holmes kept her form, just managing to hold off the fast-finishing Moroccan, Hasna Benhassi and Ceplak. Holmes' time, 1min 56.38sec, was her fastest since 1995.

Less than 24 hours later Holmes was lining up in the 1,500m heats, any mental tiredness offset by an aura of calm self-belief. Jennings advised Holmes to hang back in the final and though there were moments when she appeared to have allowed too big a gap to open up she was in such control of the race that she was able to look around her at the start of the final straight before launching her decisive attack.

Golden Years: Britain's Summer Olympic Champions 1948-2008, by **Clive Ellis**, is published by Greenwich Publishing. Postage-free copies can be ordered for £12.99 (RRP £18.99) via www.greenwich-publishing.co.uk

ATHLETICS

Gemili's fast off the blocks to secure Olympic berth

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

YOUNG sprint sensation Adam Gemili has confirmed he will represent Great Britain against the likes of Usain Bolt in pursuit of Olympic gold this summer in the 100m.

The Dartford teenager confirmed on Tuesday that he would accept the place he won in the UK trials at the weekend, after previously saying he might concentrate on the World Junior Championships in Barcelona.

Gemili, 18, who chalked up the fastest time over the distance in Europe this year with 10.08 seconds will now compete in both events and could be pitted against Jamaica's Bolt, whose world record is 9.58 seconds.

Remarkably, he only started training for the Games at the beginning of the year, after previously focusing on a career in football.

"I am going to the Olympics," Gemili said. "I just hope I don't get beaten too badly. People train their whole lives to do it. I'm lucky that I've come into athletics at the right time and I've qualified. It feels amazing."

After setting the fastest time in qualifying at the trials, 10.20 seconds, Gemili finished second behind Dwain Chambers in the final in 10.29.

Although this was fractionally behind the Olympic qualifying time of 10.18, Gemili's personal best of 10.08, set last month, earned him a place that first he was unsure about accepting.

"I can't believe it, I don't know what to say," he said after the race. "I've got to thank everyone that supported me. I was just trying to go and run and finish in the top two. Now I'm potentially going to the Olympics."

Chambers said Gemili had pushed him all the way in the final and added that the teenager reminded him of himself as a younger athlete.

"In a situation like this I have to draw on my experience and that's what enabled me to win," Chambers said. "He (Gemili) is fantastic, and it's great to see youngsters coming through. That what gives us old boys a kick up the backside and we need that. And looking at him remembering myself in that position wanting to beat all the old boys, now we're getting a taste of our own medicine. I still feel young at heart, and having a youngster like Adam is fantastic for the sport. I believe he's going to be a fantastic attribute for the relay and he's going to do fantastically well in the world juniors."

SPEEDSTER: At just 18, the youngster from Dartford will find himself going head-to-head with the likes of record-breaker Usain Bolt in the 100m at this summer's 2012 Olympic Games in London

CRICKET

Jimmy will go all the way to the top, says Lashings chief

JIMMY Adams' initial success with Kent has come as no surprise to the man who worked with him for much of the past decade.

The Kent coach spent over 10 years with the Maidstone-based Lashings World XI before moving to the St Lawrence Ground this season, and his former chairman David Folb says he's amazed Adams was on the market for so long.

"Jimmy will go right to the very top," Folb said. "He was always very interested in coaching. A few seasons ago we had Jimmy and Andy Flower here at the same time and they were very much like a brains trust.

"I just don't understand why nobody snapped him up beforehand."

While Flower went on to become England's head coach, aside from a spell with West Indies under-19s, Adams didn't land a major coaching role until Kent came calling.

"I think Kent have made a phenomenally good choice in appointing him," Folb said. "He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and has exceptional management skills.

"In all the years he spent with us nobody ever had a bad word to say about him because he's just such a great guy."

Lashings were due to play in Kent this week, but their annual fixture with Sutton Valence School had to be cancelled, apparently due to poor ticket sales.

Folb declined to comment on the cancellation, but the team will be back in the county next Friday when they take on a Dartford Schools XI at Hesketh Park.

Picture: ADY KERRY

TOP MAN: Adams has impressed

OLYMPICS

Dobriskey on the brink, as Green leaps at chance

LISA Dobriskey and Jack Green both seem certain to be turning out in the red, white and blue of Team GB at London 2012 after strong performances last weekend at the trials in Birmingham.

Snodland 400m hurdler Green came second behind world champion Dai Greene to ensure he would be part of the team, but Ashford's Dobriskey has to wait a while longer yet before learning if her place is secure.

The Commonwealth Games gold medallist came runner-up in the 1,500m, just outside the qualifying time. However, the decision not to take her to the European Championships in Helsinki this weekend was seen by many as a sign she will be picked for this summer's Games.

Dobriskey, 28, who grew up in New Romney, has fought back from set-backs this year – most notably when she was diagnosed with blood clots on her lung.

She said after the race: "I was told by a specialist that that was it, just give up and take six months off, you won't be able to run.

"Im looking at this as such a bonus and I'm so grateful to be back."

European under-23 champion Green, meanwhile, was disappointed with his performance.

He explained: "It's the worst technical race I've had all year. First hurdle, it all went wrong so I went into panic mode and thought 'just run!' It will sink in soon."

Picture: RICHARD LANE PHOTOGRAPHY

READY: Will Lisa be in London 2012?

CRICKET

BLOW: ECB say Kent's defeat to Essex will stand

Cloud cast over Essex defeat as clubs admit scorer made an error

ESSEX will escape without even a slapped wrist after the scoring fiasco that cost Kent two potentially crucial runs during their Twenty20 clash at Chelmsford.

The derby was poised for a thrilling final over, but confusion over the correct score meant that when Mark Davies faced the final ball from Graham Napier the scoreboard said Kent needed four to win – when two would have been enough and a single would have clinched a tie.

Davies tried to smash the final ball to the boundary but was bowled, meaning Kent lost by three runs.

A spokesman for Essex confirmed an error had been made.

"At the end of the 19th over the umpire penalised Essex six runs for a slow over rate," he admitted. "At 19.2 overs the incorrect score was still on the scoreboard as the scorer didn't see the signal. While this penalty was being sorted out Matt Coles scored two runs, but this was not seen by the scorer, who was told it was a dot ball.

"Their (Kent's) interpretation of it was that this would have meant the batsman would have played a different shot."

Neither county reported the incident in their match reports, but radio commentators did pick up on it and one source confirmed there had been a significant amount of bad feeling after the game.

The county have not made a formal complaint – contrary to a suggestion from Sky's Nasser Hussain during commentary on Kent's defeat to Middlesex on Tuesday night.

"We and Essex both had scorers at the match," a Kent spokesman said. "There was a mistake, but we are keen to move on from the situation. We will not be making any further comment."

While the laws of cricket make no specific reference to penalties for incorrect scoring, saying only that two scorers should be present and that they should regularly consult each other, under the England & Wales Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket there is provision for disciplinary action.

If the umpires consider any action to be "unfair" the offending club can be fined and docked points.

Adrian Phillips of the ECB said: "This game and matter was investigated by the ECB and has now been closed. The game's result stands."

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